

# Unit 1: Grade 4: Climate Change

Content Area: **Template**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Full Year**  
Length: **Full Year**  
Status: **Published**

## GOALS/PURPOSE

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### Purpose:

The purpose of this Crosswalk is to foster an interdisciplinary approach to climate change education that is evidence-based, action-oriented, and inclusive.

### Goals:

1. Prepare students to understand how and why climate change happens.
2. Teach students the impact that climate change has on our local and global communities

ELA.RL.CR.4.1	Refer to details and examples as textual evidence when explaining what a literary text says explicitly and make relevant connections when drawing inferences from the text.
ELA.RI.CR.4.1	Refer to details and examples as textual evidence when explaining what an informational text says explicitly and make relevant connections when drawing inferences from the text.
ELA.RL.CI.4.2	Summarize a literary text and interpret the author's theme citing key details from the text.
ELA.RI.CI.4.2	Summarize an informational text and interpret the author's purpose or main idea citing key details from the text.
ELA.RL.IT.4.3	Describe the impact of individuals and events throughout the course of a text, using an in-depth analysis of the character, setting, or event that draws on textual evidence.
ELA.RI.IT.4.3	Describe the impact of individuals and events throughout the course of a text, explaining events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on evidence in the text.
ELA.RI.TS.4.4	Describe the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in a text or part of a text.
ELA.RI.MF.4.6	Use evidence to show how graphics and visuals (e.g., illustrations, charts, graphs, diagrams, timelines, animations) support central ideas.
ELA.RI.AA.4.7	Analyze how an author uses facts, details and explanations to develop ideas or to support their reasoning.
ELA.W.IW.4.2.A	Introduce a topic clearly and group related information in paragraphs and sections; include formatting (e.g., headings), text features (e.g., illustrations, diagrams, captions) and multimedia when useful to aid in comprehension.

## READ ALOUD TEXTS/EXCERPTS

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### Picture Books- Non Fiction

#### [\*The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind \(picture book edition\)\*](#)

#### by [William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer](#)

Malawi is an agricultural country that is highly vulnerable to droughts. This memoir recounts the country's severe drought and famine about 20 years ago when author William Kamkwamba was a teenager. His village had no resources for advanced irrigation or even electricity. So, Kamkwamba builds a wind turbine from scrap materials,

bringing both light and water to his community—an inspiring story for future clean energy engineers.

[Watch The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind on YouTube](#)

### **GRETA THUNBERG (LITTLE PEOPLE, BIG DREAMS)**

**by VEGARA, MARIA ISABEL SAN**

Presents a brief picture book biography of Greta Thunberg. Relates the story of how she stopped talking and went on a strike from school when she first learned about climate change. Tracks her rise through social media to international recognition for her speeches and climate change activism.

[Watch Greta Thunberg by Vegara on YouTube](#)

### **ONE PLASTIC BAG: ISATOU CEESAY AND THE RECYCLING WOMEN OF THE GAMBIA**

**by PAUL, MIRANDA**

Discover the inspiring true story of Isatou Ceesay, an African woman who started a recycling movement to combat the pollution caused by plastic bags in her community.

For years, plastic bags were a cheap and convenient option for carrying goods in Njau, Gambia. However, when these bags broke or were no longer needed, they were carelessly discarded, leading to an unsightly accumulation of plastic waste alongside roads. The stagnant water in the bags provided a breeding ground for mosquitoes and diseases, while the burning of bags left behind a foul smell. The bags also strangled gardens, killed livestock, and polluted the environment.

Isatou Ceesay decided to take action, and she began to collect the plastic bags and recycle them into something new. Her efforts not only helped to clean up the environment but also provided income for women in her community who had been struggling to make ends meet.

[Watch One Plastic Bag by Paul on YouTube/MrsMorrisReads](#)

### **Climate Change**

**By Ellen Labrecque**

Examines climate change through the lenses of history, geography, civics, and economics. Details large and small ways to stop global warming. Includes tips for using evidence from a variety of sources to form conclusions, color photographs, a glossary, critical thinking questions, and further resources.

[Read Climate Change: Global Citizens Environmentalism on Epic](#)

### **Picture Book- Fiction**

**WE ARE WATER PROTECTORS by LINDSTROM, CAROLE**

Inspired by the many Indigenous-led movements across North America, We Are Water Protectors issues an urgent rallying cry to safeguard the Earth's water from harm and corruption—a bold and lyrical picture book written by Carole Lindstrom and vibrantly illustrated by Michaela Goade. When a black snake threatens to destroy the Earth. And poison her people's water, one young water protector. Takes a stand to defend Earth's most sacred resource.

[Watch We Are Water Protectors by Lindstrom on YouTube](#)

***Other Excellent Texts- No Video Links***

### **[THE WILD ROBOT by BROWN, PETER](#)**

**When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is all alone on a remote, wild island. She has no idea how she got there or what her purpose is--but she knows she needs to survive. After battling a violent storm and escaping a vicious bear attack, she realizes that her only hope for survival is to adapt to her surroundings and learn from the island's unwelcoming animal inhabitants.**

**As Roz slowly befriends the animals, the island starts to feel like home--until, one day, the robot's mysterious past comes back to haunt her.**

From bestselling and award-winning author and illustrator Peter Brown comes a heartwarming and action-packed novel about what happens when nature and technology collide.

No Video Link

### **[CLIMATE CHANGE \(OUR CHANGING EARTH\) by NEMETH, JASON D](#)**

Using eye-catching photos and key-concept text explains what weather and climate is, how it has changed, and what caused the changes. Discusses the earth's atmosphere, the ozone layer, greenhouse gases, and global warming. Looks at how scientists track climate changes and how we can affect tomorrow's climate by making changes today.

No Video Link

### **[Our World out of Balance: Understanding the Climate Change and What We Can Do, Andrea Minoglio.](#)**

Using age-appropriate language, the authors provide science-based explanations for the causes of climate change & its impact on our lives. Each two-page spread tackles a different aspect of the climate crisis & includes information on current efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change and ways that young people can help.

No Video Link

## **ARTICLES AND/OR VIDEO RESOURCES (FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES)**

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Articles

[What Good is a Salt Marsh? by George W. Frame- Common Lit](#)

[Climate change: What is climate change? What could happen? Get all the facts you need to know. BY ALLYSON SHAW- Nat Geo Kids](#)

[What is Climate Change? Wonderopolis Article, Quiz, and Video](#)

[How Big Is Your Carbon Footprint? Wonderopolis Article, Quiz, and Video](#)

[Can We Reverse Carbon Emissions? Wonderopolis Article, Quiz, and Video](#)

[Why Are Rainforests Important? Wonderopolis Video, Quiz, and Article](#)

Kids Guide To Climate Change- 2 Pager (Attached)

Videos

[Food Choices and Climate Change- 2 Videos Linked Though Common Lit](#)

[Causes and Effects of Climate Change- Nat Geo Video](#)

[The Last Time The Globe Warmed- PBS Eons Video](#)

[Climate 101: Glaciers | National Geographic](#)

[What Is The Ozone Layer? | Ozone Layer Depletion | Dr Binocs Show | Kids Learning Video | Peekaboo Kidz](#)

Game

[Climate Change Games- NASA's Climate Kids](#)

[Generate: The Game of Energy Choices \(Printable\)](#)

Activity With Video

[Climate Change Demonstration- Hands-On and Video](#)

This demonstration uses a water balloon to show how Earth's oceans are absorbing most of the heat being trapped on our warming world.

Epic Collection

[Epic Collection of Books and Videos About Climate Change](#)

[kids-guide-to-climate-change.pdf](#)

## **WEBSITES (FOR STUDENTS TO INTERACT WITH)**

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Brain Pop

[Climate Change - BrainPop Movie and Activities](#)

[Rachel Carson- BrainPop Movie and Activities](#)

Epic Books with Quiz

[Climate Change and Energy Technology- Epic Book and Quiz](#)

[Climate Change And Extreme Storms- Epic Book and Quiz](#)

Interactive Websites

[NASA Climate Kids](#)

[Climate Change Games- NASA's Climate Kids](#)

[Recycle Round Up Game- Nat Geo Kids](#)

## **PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS (LESSON PLANS, REPRODUCIBLES, ETC.)**

This section is for teachers/staff only. Please include links to organizations (approved list again) and/or lesson plan resources that you feel would be helpful in assisting a teacher plan for the implementation of this crosswalk. These resources should be free. Please DO NOT include and Teacher Pay Teacher resources here.

Attached Printable PDFs

Climate Basics

Websites

[NJ Climate Change Education Resources](#)

[NASA Global Climate Change Vital Signs of The Planet](#)

[EPA's Climate Change Website For Educators](#)

[NASA's STEM Lessons For Educators](#)

[Climate.gov Teaching Climate Videos, Lessons, Resources \(From NJDOE Climate Change Resources\)](#)

[Climate Change Evidence and Causes \(From NJDOE Climate Change Resources\)](#)

Student Activism/Challenge Opportunities

[Ecochallenge \(From NJDOE Climate Change Resources\)](#)

[STEAM Tank Challenge \(From NJDOE Climate Change Resources\)](#)

[Eco Ambassador Program](#)

[Climate Basics 8pager 508 v4.pdf](#)