

# Unit 1: Grade 5: Climate Change

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

## GOALS/PURPOSE

---

### 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.5.1	Quote accurately from a literary text when explaining what the text says explicitly and make relevant connections when drawing inferences from the text.
ELA.RI.CR.5.1	Quote accurately from an informational text when explaining what the text says explicitly and make relevant connections when drawing inferences from the text.
ELA.RL.CI.5.2	Determine the theme of a literary text (e.g., stories, plays or poetry) and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.
ELA.RI.CI.5.2	Determine the central idea of an informational text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.
ELA.RL.IT.5.3	Analyze the impact of two or more individuals and events throughout the course of a text, comparing and contrasting two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific textual evidence (e.g., how characters interact).
ELA.RI.IT.5.3	Analyze the impact of two or more individuals and events throughout the course of a text, explaining the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text based on specific evidence in the text.
ELA.RI.TS.5.4	Compare and contrast the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in two or more texts.
ELA.RL.MF.5.6	Analyze how visual and multimedia elements contribute to the meaning, tone, or beauty of a text (e.g., graphic novel, multimedia presentation of fiction, folktale, myth, poem).
ELA.RI.AA.5.7	Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text, identifying which reasons and evidence support which point(s).
ELA.W.SE.5.6	Gather relevant information from multiple valid and reliable print and digital sources; summarize or paraphrase information in notes and finished work, making note of any similarities and differences among ideas presented; and provide a list of sources.

## READ ALOUD TEXTS/EXCERPTS

---

### Picture Books

[\*MOTH: AN EVOLUTION STORY\*](#)

by [THOMAS, ISABEL](#)

A peppered moth blends in with the lichen-covered branches of its tree home but struggles to maintain its camouflage as the soot from man-made machines slowly turns everything black.

Using a moth species in 19th century England as a true example, this picture book showcases why living things need the environment to survive, and what happens when that environment changes. In this case, the moths evolved to have darker wings to better camouflage themselves on soot-covered trees—a tale that offers kids a gentle introduction to the concepts of adaptation and natural selection, as well as the impacts of industrial pollution.

[Watch Moth: An Evolution Story on YouTube](#)

[Watch The Moth Book Trailer](#)

## **THE GIRL WHO HEARD THE MUSIC: HOW ONE PIANIST AND 85,000 BOTTLES AND CANS BROUGHT NEW HOPE TO AN ISLAND**

**by** [FOGELSON, MARNI](#)

**The true story of award-winning pianist and environmental activist Mahani Teave and the beloved island she is helping to save.** Imagine living on a tiny island more than a thousand miles from any other inhabited place! That's where a girl named Mahani lived—on Rapa Nui, also known as Easter Island. Mahani grew up taking music lessons on the island's only piano. She had the talent to become a great pianist, but pursuing that dream meant leaving the home she loved.

As Mahani toured the world as an acclaimed concert pianist, Rapa Nui stayed close to her heart. She knew the island struggled with problems like ocean trash and wondered how she could help. So she returned to Rapa Nui with a new dream—to build a music school! The unique building is constructed with recycled trash and has solar panels and a food garden. Now Mahani is helping build a more sustainable future for her island home—where the music continues.

[Watch The Girl Who Heard The Music by Fogelson on YouTube](#)

## **Let's Eat! Sustainable Food for a Hungry Planet**

By: Kimberley Veness

All the food you eat, whether it's an apple or a steak or a chocolate-coated cricket, has a story. Uncover the secret lives of your groceries! Explains agricultural issues and the results of various farming practices, including family farming, aquaponics, skyscraper farming, industrial farming, and the raising of edible insects. Also discusses the environmental aspects of food manufacturing.

[Read Let's Eat on Epic](#)

## **Novels- Fiction**

**WILLODEEN**

**by** [APPLEGATE, KATHERINE](#)

This fantastical chapter book explores how ecosystems are interconnected. The story follows a young girl who loves all creatures—no matter how ugly or smelly—as she notices changes in the

groves around her village. Gradually, she realizes that villagers who overhunted an undesirable “pest” disrupted the natural balance of things—to the detriment of both the wild animals and her community. Though written for older children, this book is appropriate for younger audiences as a read-aloud.

[Listen To Willodeen by Applegate on YouTube](#)

[Watch Willodeen Book Trailer](#)

***More Excellent Texts- No Video or Audio Links***

**[TWO DEGREES](#)**

**[by GRATZ, ALAN](#)**

When three children endure separate climate change disasters--a wildfire in the California woods, a close encounter with a hungry polar bear in Canada, and a massive hurricane in Florida--they emerge from their experiences committed to changing the world.

[Watch Two Degrees by Gratz Book Trailer on YouTube](#)

## **FASHION FORWARD: STRIVING FOR SUSTAINABLE STYLE (ORCA FOOTPRINTS)**

**by**

**DELISLE, RAINA**

Fashion Forward: Striving for Sustainable Style goes behind the glitz and glamour to explore the social and environmental issues within the fashion industry. It looks at the history of fashion, from why humans started wearing clothes to the birth of consumerism to the explosion of fast fashion and fashion's footprint. The book introduces readers to the innovative people, companies, and organizations that are taking positive action on fashion. Kids will discover how to make ethical choices and become fashion heroes for the future. There are easy ways we can help transform the fashion industry and still look stylish at the same time!

No Link

## **HELPING THE PEOPLE (OUR PLANET, OUR FUTURE)**

**by LIMBADA, AZRA**

Many people live on Earth, in different places, and in different ways. While people affect the earth through pollution and contributing to climate change, many people also deal with the effects of these harmful actions. Through age-appropriate text, readers will come to understand the real issues affecting climate refugees and how people can help care for the environment, and in doing so, help the people of Earth. Striking photographs and an activity at the end of the book will allow readers to connect with this important subject and become part of the change.

No Link

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

---

Articles

[Ecosystems Feel the Heat from Climate Change by Jacqueline Pratt-Tuke-Common Lit](#)

[Plastic Problem- Common Lit](#) (Linked and Article Attached)

[Habitat Destruction- Nat Geo Article](#)

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

[Is Antarctica Melting? Wonderopolis Article, Quiz, and Video](#)

[Kids Guide To Climate Change- 2 Pager](#) (Attached)

Videos

[Plastic Problem Common Lit- 3 Video Clips \(Garbage Patch, Recycling, Plastic Pollution\)](#)

[Air Pollution 101 | National Geographic](#)

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

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

[Earth Has a Fever- NASA's Earth Minute Video](#)

[Sea Level Rise- NASA's Earth Minute Video](#)

[Can Wildlife Adapt To Climate Change? Ted Ed Video and Lesson](#)

[Food Waste Causes Climate Change. Here's How We Stop It. Ted Ed Video and Lesson](#)

[What If There Were 1 Million More Trees? Ted Ed Video and Lesson](#)

Games

[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](#)

[The Plastic Problem-teacher-14.pdf](#)

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

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

---

Brain Pop

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

[Humans And The Environment- BrainPop Movie and Activities](#)

Epic Books with Quiz

[Global Warming by Shelly Buchanan- Epic Book and Quiz](#)

[Eco Pollution by Izzi Howell- 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

[What is the REAL Cost of Bananas? Science/Climate Change Connection \(From NJDOE Climate Change Resources\)](#)

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](#)

[United Nations Climate Action Site- What is Climate Change?](#)

[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](#)

[NewYork 3 Geography.pdf](#)

[NewYork 5 Bananas.pdf](#)