

Unit 14: Preserving Mother Earth: Grade 3 - Fragile Coral Reefs

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

Standards Alignment

New Jersey Student Learning Standards

Integration of Career Readiness, Life Literacies and Key Skills

CRP.K-12.CRP1	Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee.
CRP.K-12.CRP2	Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.
CRP.K-12.CRP3	Attend to personal health and financial well-being.
CRP.K-12.CRP4	Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.
CRP.K-12.CRP5	Consider the environmental, social and economic impacts of decisions.
CRP.K-12.CRP6	Demonstrate creativity and innovation.
CRP.K-12.CRP7	Employ valid and reliable research strategies.
CRP.K-12.CRP8	Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
CRP.K-12.CRP9	Model integrity, ethical leadership and effective management.
CRP.K-12.CRP10	Plan education and career paths aligned to personal goals.
CRP.K-12.CRP11	Use technology to enhance productivity.
CRP.K-12.CRP12	Work productively in teams while using cultural global competence.

Technology / Integration of Computer Science and Design Thinking

Interdisciplinary Connections: NJSLs for ELA, Social Studies, Science and/or Math Section

LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W	Writing
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W2	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and

analysis of content.

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W7

Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects, utilizing an inquiry-based research process, based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

LA.W.4.2

Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

LA.W.4.7

Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

Integration of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Climate Change; Informational and Media Literacy

see Crosswalks

21st Century Life and Careers

Stage I: Desired Results

Transfer/Overview/Rationale

Transfer / Overview / Rationale

Unit Rationale

The purpose of this unit...

Meaning

Essential Questions

Essential Questions

Where are coral reefs located?

How do organisms in coral reefs depend on each other?

How do coral reefs benefit the planet?

How do humans affect coral reefs?

What can be done to protect coral reefs?

Enduring Understanding/Indicators of Understanding

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Coral reefs are valuable and fragile ecosystems that need protection.

Acquisition (Student Learning Objectives)

Knowledge

Knowledge

Students will know...

1. Coral reefs contain many forms of life that interact with each other, and these life forms benefit our planet in many varied ways.
2. Human actions can have a detrimental effect on coral reefs. We must think about ways to protect and preserve our

coral reefs.

Concepts

Coral reef

Polyp

Zooanthellae

Symbiosis

Coral Bleaching

Destructive Fishing

Skills

Skills

Student will be skilled at ...

Students will be able to...

Identify the environment necessary to sustaining a coral reef.

Create an edible coral polyp.

Predict areas likely to be affected by coral bleaching by interpreting sea surface temperature data.

Identify threats to coral reefs.

Identify ways to protect coral reefs.

Stage 3: Learning Plan

Resource and Mentor Texts

Resources and Mentor Texts

See links for project documents, research web sites, book lists, and informational websites.

[Family Letter](#)

[NOAA Coral Reef Watch Curriculum](#)

[Teacher's Introduction](#)

[Save the Coral Reefs Project](#)

[Research Guides](#)

[Coral Reef Webcam](#)

[Tropical Ocean Ecosystems \(cool links here!\)](#)

[National Ocean Service](#)

[Coral Reef Alliance](#)

[Oceanography - Coral Reefs](#)

[List of Environmental Books](#)

[Coral Reef PowerPoints](#)

[Digital Bulletin Board where students can place info](#)

Formative Assessment Strategies

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Learning Activities/Unit of Study

Learning Activities/Unit of Study

Introduction to Coral Reefs - There are many resources found in the LINKS.

Symbiosis and Coral Anatomy - Students learn about the symbiosis that exists in coral reefs. (PowerPoint attached)

Students create an edible coral polyp.

[Intro to Corals](#)

[Map of world's coral reefs](#)

[Symbiosis and Coral Anatomy](#)

[Symbiosis PowerPoint](#)

[Edible Coral Polyp Activity](#)

[Coral Bleaching and Sea Surface Temp](#)

[Conservation](#)

[Great links for info on coral reefs](#)

[Threats to Coral Reef PowerPoint](#)

[actual videos from dive to Great Barrier Reef](#)

Modifications and/or Accommodations

Suggested Modifications (ELL, Sp. Ed, Gifted, At-risk of Failure)

English Language Learners

Native language support: The teacher provides auditory or written content to students in their native language.

Adjusted Speech: The teacher changes speech patterns to increase student comprehension. This could include facing the students, paraphrasing, clearly indicating the most important ideas, and speaking more slowly.

Visuals: The teacher uses graphics, pictures, visuals, and manipulatives. This helps ELL students better understand and comprehend the subjects at hand.

Front-Loading Vocabulary: The teacher front loads vocabulary. This means providing students with a list of important vocabulary words they will need to know for a book, lesson, etc. prior to the lesson being taught. Including pictures to go with the vocabulary words is also very beneficial for the

students.

Special Education Students

Chunking: The teacher presents information in a way that makes it easy for students to understand and remember. Chunking is based on the presumption that our working memory is easily overloaded by excessive detail. The best way to deliver information is to organize it into meaningful units. Because students with special needs get overloaded easily, chunking is an effective strategy to use with them.

Checking for Understanding: It is important to constantly check for understanding, especially for students who have accommodations. Teachers want to make sure students understand the concepts being covered in a way that makes sense to them.

Extra time: The teacher provides students with special needs extra time to complete work or answer questions. It is important to give students enough time to process their thoughts.

Oral Reading: The teacher will read work orally to students. Class work such as tests and literature circles may need to be read aloud to the student.

Timers: The teacher will use timers as an instructional tool. The use of timers is beneficial for students who have trouble completing tasks. Timers can be helpful so the student is aware of how much time they have to complete an assignment.

Students with 504 Plans

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Gifted & Talented Strategies

Extensions/Enrichments: Teachers will provide gifted and talented students with extension/enrichment projects. Students will be challenged to further their understanding, to apply acquired knowledge, and/or to produce something in reference to acquired knowledge.

Modify/Change Activities: Teachers will monitor and modify activities to accommodate those

students who need to be challenged further. Additional reading, problem-solving, writing, or project work is necessary for those students who are ready to move on at a rate more accelerated than their peers. In this way, G & T students are provided the same opportunity for support as special needs students.

Students at Risk of School Failure

Directions or Instructions: Make sure directions and/or instructions are given in limited numbers. Give directions/instructions verbally and in simple written format. Ask students to repeat the instructions or directions to ensure understanding occurs. Check back with the student to ensure he/she hasn't forgotten.

Peer Support: Peers can help build confidence in other students by assisting in peer learning. Many teachers use the 'ask 3 before me' approach. This is fine, however, a student at risk may have to have a specific student or two to ask. Set this up for the student so he/she knows who to ask for clarification before going to you.

Alternate or Modified Assignments: Always ask yourself, "How can I modify this assignment to ensure the students at risk are able to complete it?" Sometimes you'll simplify the task, reduce the length of the assignment or allow for a different mode of delivery. For instance, many students may hand something in, the at-risk student may jot notes and give you the information verbally. Or, it just may be that you will need to assign an alternate assignment.

Increase One to One Time: When other students are working, always touch base with your students at risk and find out if they're on track or needing some additional support. A few minutes here and there will go a long way to intervene as the need presents itself.

Contracts: It helps to have a working contract between you and your students at risk. This helps prioritize the tasks that need to be done and ensure completion happens. Each day write down what needs to be completed, as the tasks are done, provide a checkmark or happy face. The goal of using contracts is to eventually have the student come to you for completion sign-offs.

Hands On: As much as possible, think in concrete terms and provide hands-on tasks. This means a child doing math may require a calculator or counters. The child may need to tape record comprehension activities instead of writing them. A child may have to listen to a story being read instead of reading it him/herself.

Tests/Assessments: Tests can be done orally if need be. Break tests down in smaller increments by having a portion of the test in the morning, another portion after lunch and the final part the next day.

Seating: Seat students near a helping peer or with quick access to the teacher. Those with hearing or sight issues need to be close to the instruction which often means near the front.