

## 6th Grade Service Learning

How it ties into 6th grade curriculum: **Ecology & the Environment Unit** (MS-ESS3-3, MS-ESS3-4, MS-LS2-5)

### Possible School Service

To do a service day(s) for the school and get the kids outside and learning about the environment they live in, we can do a school grounds clean up the day before Field Day. This will allow the students to do a service for the school by helping to clean it up, and also to the students and staff who will be outside doing the activities so they can have fun and not worry about stepping or tripping on trash while they are playing the outside games.

We can also do a follow up the next school day after Field Day to help clean up any messes or trash that was left behind from all of the games.

This will teach the kids that we need to keep our environment clean so the plants can thrive and produce more oxygen for us to breathe and continue the oxygen cycle, and also help the small animals that live around here so that their homes aren't littered with trash.

### Project based Services:

**Community Issue:** Students will choose between one of these issues to research, create a presentation on how they can help with this issue in Milltown, and then make a pamphlet to be posted.

| Project Name:             | Description  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Athletic Shoe Recycling   | Learn about the resources needed to create athletic shoes, and the amount of landfill space used to dispose of them. Create a campaign to recycle athletic shoes at your school.   |
| Biking Clinic             | Use the internet and other resources to gather information about bike safety, investigating the health benefits of biking, and the energy savings of bicycle transportation. Create a pamphlet on bike safety for local youth and community members. |
| Computer Recycling        | Investigate the different types of materials used to build computers and how these materials can be either disposed of or recycled. Develop a brochure to encourage community members to recycle old electronics and where to bring them.            |
| Create a Rain Garden      | Study the benefits of rain gardens and the scientific principles which support their use. Create a brochure to help your community create a rain garden at your school, using native trees and shrubs.   |
| Hiking Guide for Students | Using research from the internet, the library, and interviews with experts, gather information about local hikes. Learn from experts what to bring along on a hike. Create an informational brochure or website to share with the community.         |

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Ladybugs for Natural Pest Control | Learn alternative methods of pest control and the different impacts that these methods have on the environment. Create a brochure to demonstrate how everyone in town can do this and not use harmful pesticides.  |
| Making Enviro-Friendly Cleaners   | Learn about the chemicals contained in traditional cleansers and their impacts on humans and the environment. Research alternative methods of cleaning. Produce environmentally friendly cleansers show Milltown how you make them in videos or pamphlets so they can make the cleaners.                     |
| Saving Water                      | Research and study water needs and usage in the community. Learn about conservation strategies from the water bureau. Design and publish a water-saving tip sheet to distribute to parents and community residents, and create a coloring book illustrating the tips for the community's youngest residents. |
| Sustainable Gardening             | Learn how traditional gardening methods can have a negative impact on water quality and other environmental indicators. Research alternative methods and train community members in sustainable gardening by creating a "How To" pamphlet.   |

### Pre-Reflection

- Students in their groups, will look over the list of types of projects they can do their project on.
  - They will talk about what they already know about the environment and how they can help it. Using their previous knowledge, they will choose the best project for their group.

### Research

- Students will research their topic. They will brainstorm and come up with a concept map of how they want to create their presentation Google Slides and their pamphlet in Google Docs.

### Presentation & Pamphlet

- Students will take all of their research on their chosen topic and create a presentation in Google Slides. This presentation will be presented to the class.
- Students will also come up with a pamphlet summarizing their presentations that can be shared on Parent Square to help bring awareness to the Milltown Community.

### Reflection

- Students will then reflect (in their science journals?) on how they think their project went, and how they will use the suggestions they provided to help the environment.

### **Topic Resource Site:**

[https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/gysd/pages/3176/attachments/original/1387251965/55\\_Enviromental\\_Service-Learning\\_Projects.pdf?1387251965=](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/gysd/pages/3176/attachments/original/1387251965/55_Enviromental_Service-Learning_Projects.pdf?1387251965=)