

Lesson #8: Solutions Make Us Stronger

My Climate Story Reflection



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As part of planting seeds for climate stories, your students are developing their own story to help them walk through their role in climate change. You can use this assignment in place of -or to support- a journal reflection.

The worksheet for developing My Climate Story for this lesson asks your students to explore some more stories of young leaders taking action for the planet and for others. Learning more about others and hearing their great solutions will be inspiring for your students to create their own climate story at the end of the unit.

For further guidelines on helping your students develop their own Climate Story, check out the explanation in the Teacher's Guide (page #).

Reflection/Journal Prompts

- How did you feel when thinking about climate solutions? Why do you think that was?
- Who are some other climate heroes around you?
- What are some climate-friendly actions I can take at home?



Assessment/Evaluation

The Climate Storytelling activity will require formative and summative assessment, with feedback given on the draft, and questions the student asked the featured person, where possible. For the climate solution activity, summative evaluation in the form of an exit slip or self-evaluation would help check for understanding and engagement with the activity and larger concepts.

Extension Activities:

- ↳ You may want your students to create a series of climate storytelling profiles of people in the school, community, or more abroad. This assignment would be great to film snippets of the person's replies, and showcase all together as a mini exhibition or on a posterboard in the hallway.
- ↳ You may wish to modify the climate-friendly activity for younger classes by starting with a brainstorm of climate actions and then having a pre-developed list of activities, asking the students to vote on which one to do instead.

Lesson #8: Take Action

Climate Storytellers

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Science Review

You may have heard before about carrying capacity, or the amount of a species that can be held in their own place comfortably. If everyone in the world lived like we did in the Global North, we would need 3 Earths to sustain our lifestyle and carbon footprint.

Canada's role in global emissions may be small in terms of our small population, but per capita we are one of the world's biggest emitters, mostly caused by our heavy fossil fuel and resource extraction industries, and our huge consumption in energy in other ways, including transportation and heating across long distances.

The Drawdown is an initiative that outlines the most impactful changes our society can make to cut down greenhouse gas emissions. Amidst a number of industry actions is some highly impactful plant-based solutions. While some may require us supporting causes elsewhere (tropical forest restoration), others can begin close to home, including reducing food waste and taking up a plant-based diet.

For personal impact, a recent study by UBC includes a plant-based diet along with some other high-impact actions that are often made by adults. This includes flying less, going car-free, and having smaller families. The study

argues having less children means reducing a person's entire lifetime carbon footprint, and those of their future offspring.

While some of the actions our society will need to take to reduce our global emissions are complex, there are solutions all around us. Some are big and some are small, but the largest impacts we can make are collective. All of these are entry points for conversations you can have with your students, provided they are done thoughtfully and without judgement.

Indigenous Connections:

Indigenous communities across Canada are well-aware of the effects of climate change. They also are leading the way in looking for solutions to the challenges we have today. To help explore some of these solutions, the Montreal Science Centre created a bilingual game for youth called Climate Tactics. Students will help save Bear by playing different cards to reduce greenhouse gases, and each card highlights a different action carried out by an Indigenous community.

Indigenous Youth Climate Action is an organization led by Indigenous people to advocate for climate justice for Indigenous communities across Canada. They also help highlight the often unrecognized work of these communities in their own sustainability actions.