



Civic Environmentalism Unit Plan - Overview

Grade Range: Middle and High School

Subjects: Art, ELA, General Music, History, SEL, Social Studies, STEAM

Estimated Time: 2-3 Weeks (1-2 days for each lesson and assessment)

Standards: C3, Common Core, CTE, NAFME, NCSS, NGSS (Review each lesson for specific standards)

Why should students study civic environmentalism? Civic environmentalism is a collective action. Citizens join together to address critical environmental issues and then implement solutions through democratic processes that will result in an improved and sustainable community. By working through this unit plan, students will be able to explain key contemporary issues and events of the climate crisis. With that awareness, they will then develop the skills necessary to implement strategies that can address similar issues that are important to them. Finally, they will acquire a greater awareness of what it means to be an engaged and active citizen.

How does the unit plan bring civic environmentalism into the classroom? Through six lessons, students identify, analyze, and explore specific details and events related to the origins of the environmental movement in the U.S. and the global climate crisis. In particular, the unit plan features important figures and movements while highlighting how climate change affects people and communities differently, especially in regards to race and class. Through this thorough examination, the important role of civic environmentalism in addressing and solving critical environmental issues is identified and explained.

How does the unit plan assess mastery of civic environmentalism in action? Through activities in the unit lessons and a series of assessments, mastery is determined by individual, paired, and group research, as well as planning, writing, and presentation. The unit plan concludes with the presentation of a group project. The project demonstrates key components of civic environmentalism, including the formation and development of a local environmental advocacy group.

This unit plan encompasses the following TeachRock content:

LESSON 1 - "SINGER-SONGWriters AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT"

Figures: Rachel Carson, Joni Mitchell, Marvin Gaye, Neil Young, James Taylor, Jackson Browne

Mastery Objective: Explain how singer-songwriters from the 1960s to today have addressed environmental concerns in their music by analyzing lyrics, newspaper articles, and photographs.

LESSON 2 - "CONFRONTING THE CLIMATE CRISIS"

Figures: Billie Eilish, Finneas O'Connell

Mastery Objective: Identify the causes and effects of global warming and consider pathways to addressing the climate crisis by conducting experiments, examining charts, interacting with climate projections, and analyzing musical examples.



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LESSON 3 - "KANYE AND KATRINA: ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM IN NEW ORLEANS"

Figures: Kanye West, Big Freedia, Jamelle Bouie

Mastery Objective: Identify how issues of race and class played a role in the governmental response to Hurricane Katrina by analyzing demographic data and listening to first-hand accounts from hurricane survivors.

LESSON 4 - "THE SCIENCE AND CIVICS OF THE FLINT WATER CRISIS"

Figures: Jon Connor, Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha

Mastery Objective: Identify the causes and effects of the Flint water crisis through hands-on experimentation and the analysis of primary source documents.

LESSON 5 - "CLEANING UP THE PLASTIC BEACH"

Figures: Gorillaz, SZA

Mastery Objective: Develop action plans to curtail plastic waste by learning about the environmental threats posed by plastics and by assessing existing projects that seek to eliminate plastic waste.

LESSON 6 - "GRETA THUNBERG, MUSIC, AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS"

Figures: Greta Thunberg, John Meredith, Kiffness, Fatboy Slim, Megan Washington, Robert Davidson

Mastery Objective: Investigate how music contributes to social movements by investigating musical covers, samples, and remixes of climate activist Greta Thunberg's 2019 United Nations speech.