

Pollution and Climate Change

The background features a stylized illustration of a factory. On the left, two tall, orange smokestacks rise from a dark brown building with a grid pattern. A large, dark brown plume of smoke billows from the top of the taller stack. On the right, another tall, orange smokestack rises from a similar dark brown building. A large, dark brown plume of smoke billows from its top. The sky is a light beige color with a subtle pattern of diagonal lines in the upper right corner. The ground is represented by a wavy, light beige shape at the bottom.

My class has been virtual this year. The only materials we have for class are online. I have used NEED materials in instruction this year, in a variety of lessons. I have a group of 5 boys, however, that have been working on an Exhibition project on Pollution and Climate Change. This is their story!

The Problem and Research

1. The boys identified pollution and climate change as the biggest problem that worries them in the world.
2. They did research (using NEED materials and other trustworthy sources) on these big questions:
 - a. What is climate change?
 - b. What are the causes of pollution?
 - c. How does plastic hurt animals?
 - d. How does climate change affect food and water?
3. They have worked on this project for about 2.5 hours a week for the last month. They are expected to be finished by the first week of May. Exhibition project timelines were set by the school, so we were unable to finish before the YA deadline.

Action

The student leaders wanted to pick an action that was something everyone in the school could do to make a difference. They decided to teach everyone (K-5) two simple things to help the animals that are bothered by pollution. They know that this will also help human health, since we eat the animals.

- Cutting up 6 pack rings before disposing of them
- Cutting the loops on masks before throwing them out

Next Steps

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1. They are finalizing their slideshow presentation they will do for select classes in the school (classes who are interested will sign up to watch it).
2. They are working on a video, explaining the problem (with a Happy Feet clip) and showing the easy steps they can take to make a difference
3. The video will be shown to all classes and will be posted on the school website so students can watch it with their families.