

**Star-W Grant Project
P.S. # 3
Fourth Grade
Gerry Larsen
2003-2004**

Let's Care About Our Earth



May 28, 2004

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Project Overview

This project was inspired by the Fourth Grade Science Textbook Module about the Rainforest. Students read about the importance of saving the Rainforest. The Module instructs students to make a decompose container to observe items that rot and do not rot in the soil. Every group makes their own decompose container and observation charts which became the start of our project. The final project is a class collaborative book about students expressing what they can do to care about the earth.

Part I of the class book is called Recycle, Reduce, Reuse . Students learned to use the Inspiration Software to complete templates and create webs for caring about the earth. Students learned to search the internet for environmental pictures to insert in their Microsoft Word page to write about the importance of caring for the earth.

Part II of the class book is called Let's Care About Our Earth Rap Songs . After listening to a rap song in the McGraw-Hill Reading Series, all students created their own rap song. Their completed page was word processed using Word Art and color for each line.

Part III of the class book are Writing Extensions. Although this work is not related to the topic of caring about the earth, it clearly shows how the students learned with the Inspiration Organizers and how to insert pictures into their text to complete other Language Arts requirements for picture prompts, poem prompts, and open-ended questions.

Finally, the class book shows an example of an Earth Care Pledge Certificate that all students created and signed, making a commitment to care about the earth.

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Lesson Plan 1

Lesson Title: Rot or Do Not Rot

Subject/Grade: Language Arts/Science - Fourth Grade

Core Curriculum Content Standards (CCCS):
3.5 and 3.2 Language Arts
5.10 Science

Lesson Objectives:

- **Students will complete a teacher created Inspiration Graphic Organizer template for items that rot or do not rot in soil and apply to their results and predictions from the decomposition science experiment.**
- **All students will write two paragraphs. Paragraph one will explain the main idea of items that rot in soil. Paragraph two will explain the main idea of items that do not rot in soil.**

Approximate time: Three 40 minute periods.

Technology Objectives:

- **All students will use the Inspiration template to click and drag the symbol into the appropriate web. Students will explore the Inspiration symbol library to add symbols to the appropriate webs.**
- **Type paragraphs in the computer, using Microsoft Word.**

Materials:

Computers with Inspiration, Rot Do Not Rot Template, and printer.

Procedure:

- 1. Open Inspiration to the “Rot Do Not Rot” Template.**
- 2. Follow directions on the template, and complete your graphic organizer.**
- 3. After proofreading, print the page.**
- 4. Use the printed page to write two paragraphs about items that rot in soil and items that do not rot in soil.**

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Evaluation: Each student will complete template webs showing all their predicted symbols placed in the appropriate category. Completed paragraphs will be given to the teacher to evaluate for students to type on the computer, print and put into their student folder. The final project work will be evaluated, using a teacher created Rubric.

Extension Ideas:

Students can photograph outside litter and discuss what it does to the environment.

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Lesson Plan 2

Lesson Title: How Students, Family, and Community Help the Earth

Subject/Grade: Fourth Grade

Core Curriculum Content Standards (CCCS):

3.5 Language Arts

5.10 Science

Lesson Objectives:

- **All students will use the Inspiration Program to create a graphic organizer as a pre-writing activity as a component for the “Let’s Care About Our Earth” Book.**
- **All students will use Inspiration to create an idea web and will use site: www.epa.gov/students/waste.htm to find information relevant to their topic.**

Materials:

**Laptop computers,
Inspiration Program,
Internet Explorer, and printer.**

Procedure:

- 1. Open Inspiration**
- 2. Select Main Idea “Let’s Care About Our Earth.”**
- 3. Select the oval shape from the Basic Symbol Palette to provide what you, your family, your community, and your school can do to help the earth.**
- 4. Hyperlink your main idea to www.epa.gov/students/waste.htm**
- 5. Using the EPA website find information to answer questions relating to “Let’s Care About Our Earth.”**
- 6. Go back to your inspiration web to insert your answers.**
- 7. Proofread work before printing.**

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Evaluation:

The teacher will evaluate each printed organizer to check if students completed the graphic organizer correctly to be use for information to work on project work for a completed booklet about “Let’s Care About Our Earth. The final project work will be evaluated, using a teacher created Rubric.

Extension Ideas:

Students can perform further research on recycling and environmentally friendly products.

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Lesson Plan 3

Lesson Title: Star-W Project Recording Notebook

Subject/Grade: Fourth Grade

Core Curriculum Content Standards (CCCS):

3.2 Language Arts

5.10 Science

Lesson Objectives:

- All students will record any new information and words that relate to the ongoing project, "Let's Care about our Earth".

Approximate Time: Three 40 minute periods

Technology Objectives:

- All students will use teacher selected the Internet Websites to record information to use in their project work.

Materials:

Laptop computers, websites to refer to, activity sheet with environmental vocabulary, and notebooks for all students to record information.

Procedure:

1. All students will label their notebooks for Project work.
2. Inside cover list websites:
www.cobb.k12.ga.us/~keheley/kidpower/kidpower.htm
www.ajkids.com
www.wordcentral.com – click on word central. Click on the word Dictionary at the top.
3. Give each student a list of words from the Unscramble activity sheet.
4. Go to www.wordcentral.com to find the meaning of the words. Record in notebook under Environmental Vocabulary.

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5. Go to the kidpower website for information about how to help the environment. Record in section of notebook for ways to help the environment.
6. Go to www.ajkids.com to ask questions about the environment to record more information needed to work on project work.

Evaluation:

Teacher checks all student notebooks for accurate information being recorded. The final project work will be evaluated, using a teacher created Rubric.

Extension Ideas:

After project completion, all students will continue to record any further information about the environment, such as Arbor Day. Students will use website to record information about caring for trees. The final project work will be evaluated, using a teacher created Rubric.

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Lesson Plan 4

Lesson Title: Recycle, Reduce, Reuse

Subject/Grade: Language Arts/Science – Fourth Grade

Core Curriculum Content Standards (CCCS):
3.2 and 3.5 Language Arts
5.10 Science

Lesson Objectives:

- **Students will use a picture relating to environmental issues to write a picture prompt.**

Approximate time: Four 40 minute periods.

Technology Objectives:

- **All students will use the internet to look and select a picture**
- **All students will copy and paste their picture in a Microsoft Word document.**

Materials:

Laptop computers for each student, two example sheets, Internet Explorer to go to www.google.com, Microsoft Word, and a printer.

Procedure:

1. **Open Microsoft Word.**
2. **Log onto the Internet.**
3. **Type in www.google.com**
4. **Click on images.**
5. **In the text box, type in recycle, reduce, or reuse pictures or environment pictures.**
6. **Select a picture to write about in your paragraph.**
7. **Click on “See picture alone.”**

8. **Click and drag the picture down to the start bar onto Microsoft Word. Hold it there until word opens.**

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9. Let go of mouse, the picture will open on the page.
10. Click on the picture, click on the dog on the picture toolbar. Now you can move and/or resize your picture.
11. Click your cursor under the picture to begin your text.
12. Right a picture prompt essay. The paragraph must have an introduction sentence, a topic sentence, and three or more detail sentences.

Evaluation:

All students will print their completed page to present to the teacher. The teacher will check for a clear and concise paragraph writing to include introduction sentence, topic sentence, and three or more details. Completed work will become part of a class booklet as well as an individual booklet. The final project work will be evaluated, using a teacher created Rubric.

Extension Ideas:

All students will use the procedure for searching for a picture on the internet inserting it to do future picture prompts and open-ended questions.

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Lesson Plan 5

Lesson Title: Let's Care About Our Earth Rap Songs

Subject/Grade: Language Arts/Science – Fourth Grade

Core Curriculum Content Standards (CCCS):

**3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, & 3.5 – Language Arts
5.10 - Science**

Lesson Objectives:

- All students will listen to an Earth Day Rap from the Fourth Grade McGraw-Hill Teacher's Edition for Read Aloud & Motivate.
- Students will experience reciting the reading as a rap.
- Students will use this example to create their own rap song for "Let's Care About Our Earth."

Approximate time is four forty minute periods.

Technology Objectives:

- All students will use the internet to insert a picture for their creative writing on Microsoft word and print the final work.

Materials:

Fourth Grade McGraw-Hill Teacher's Edition (page TE158E Read Aloud & Motivate Earth Day Rap), laptops, Internet Explorer, Microsoft Word, and a printer.

Procedure:

1. Teacher reads to the students the Earth Day Rap.
2. Students take turns reciting the rap.
3. Students create a prewriting rap for Let's Care About our Earth.

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4. Students type their rap song onto Microsoft Word. Type each line in a color.
5. Students go to www.google.com to find an appropriate picture for their rap song.
6. Students insert picture onto Microsoft Word page.
7. All students must proofread & spell check.
8. Print completed work.

Evaluation:

The teacher will evaluate the content of each creative rap song for relevancy to project work. Songs will be selected for a class booklet. A copy will be put into individual portfolio and a copy for each individual book. The final project work will be evaluated, using a teacher created Rubric.

Extension Ideas:

Students will present their creative rap on Power Point.

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Lesson Plan 6

Lesson Title: Inspiration Organizer

Subject/Grade: Language Arts – Fourth Grade

Core Curriculum Content Standards (CCCS):
3.2 & 3.5 – Language Arts

Lesson Objectives:

- **All students will use the Inspiration Software to create a web organizer to use for open-ended questions and picture prompts. Students will follow a given sample. Approximate time: One 40 minute period and to be used for future writings.**

Technology Objectives:

- **All students will demonstrate the use of the Inspiration Software to create a web organizer. Print completed organizer.**

Materials:

Laptops with Inspiration Software, a sample page of a web organizer, and a printer.

Procedure:

- 1. Each student receives a sample web organizer.**
- 2. Open Inspiration – the Main Idea Symbol is created.**
- 3. Create links to the Main Idea Symbol for paragraphs 1, 2, and 3.**
- 4. Create links for each paragraph showing three detail sentences.**
- 5. Print the completed web to use for assigned picture prompts and open-ended questions.**
- 6. Put printed page into individual portfolio.**

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Evaluation:

All students will self check their organizer with the sample to be sure all required elements are included. The teacher will do a final check for the same. The final project work will be evaluated, using a teacher created Rubric.

Extension Ideas:

Students will use their web organizer to do a story web following a story they read in their reading textbook, use their organizer to complete a poem prompt, a picture prompt, and an open-ended question after viewing a video.

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Activity Sheets

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle -

<http://www.worldalmanacforkids.com/explore/environment2.html>

ABC Words 2 Explore – **<http://www.42explore.com/recycle.htm>**

HelpUnscramble Our Recycling World – **<http://www.mcsmd.org/kids/scramble.html>**

Environment Crossword Puzzle –

<http://www.abcteach.com/wordpuzzles/WordSearches/environment.htm>

Earth Day Every Day – **<http://www.kidsdomain.com>**

Save the Earth Seek-N-Find – by Vincent Ledesma (from an activity book?)

Reuse It or Lose It – **http://eerc.ra.utk.edu/tnswep/worksheet_Pq3.htm**

Let's Recycle – Frank Schaffer Publications, Inc.

Fifth Grade Review – Page 23

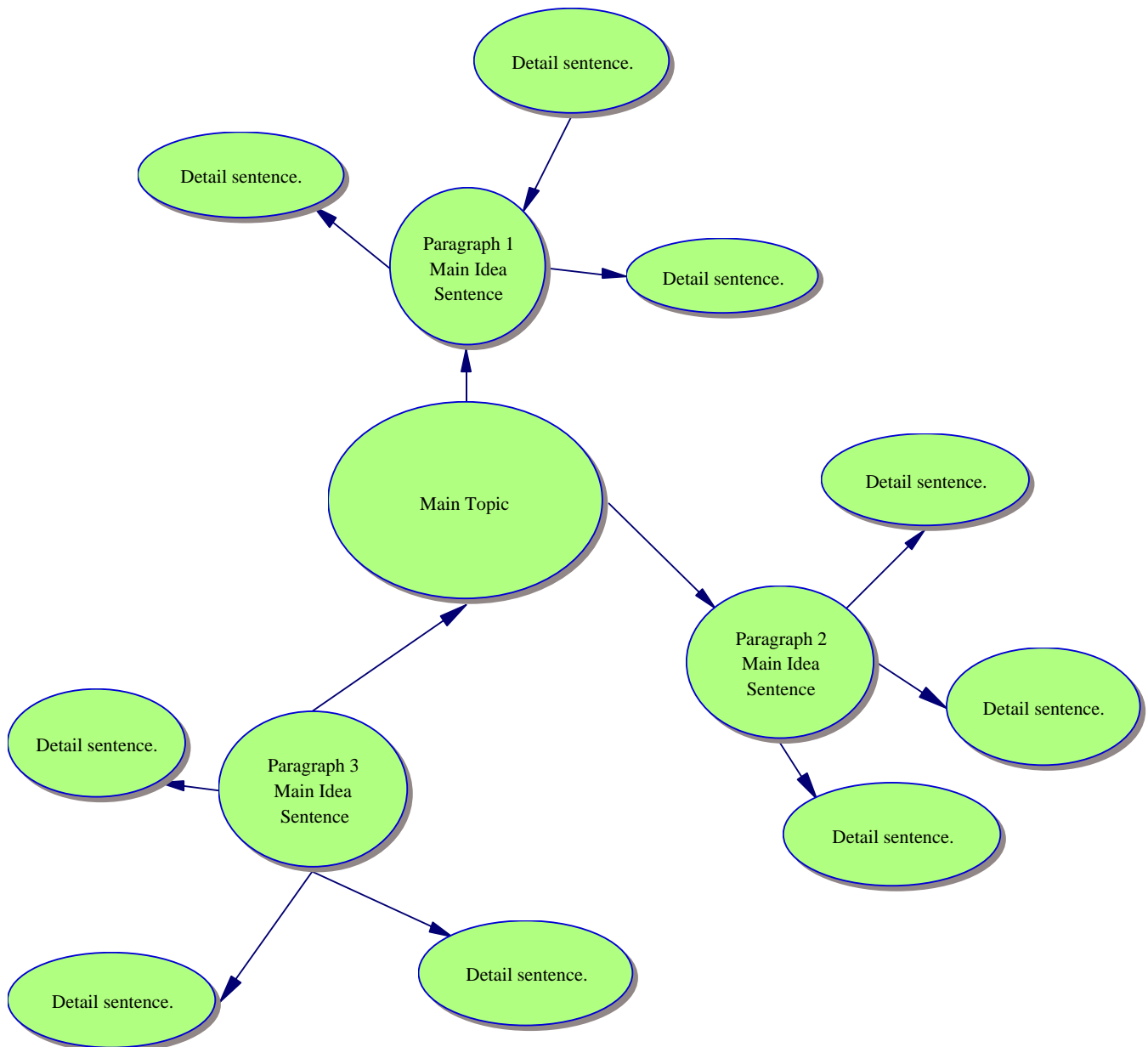
Ready for Recycling? – Frank Schaffer Publications, Inc. – **Fifth Grade Review –
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This is a way to organize your thoughts into a web to answer an open-ended question that may be answered with three paragraphs.

Remember every paragraph must have a main idea sentence and three detail sentences. You may write more details about the main idea sentence as long as the sentences tell about that main idea sentence.

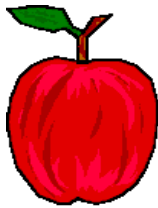
FIVE MINUTES FOR A WEB ORGANIZER. TWENTY MINUTES TO WRITE YOUR PARAGRAPHS.



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Items that Rot or Items that Do Not Rot

Directions:
1. Highlight the symbol.
2. Select link level.
3. Move arrow to appropriate symbol.



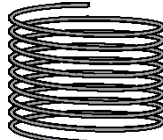
piece of an apple



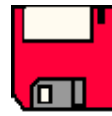
piece of lettuce



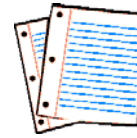
magnet



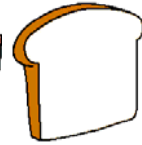
spring



disk



piece of paper



piece of bread

Items that will rot in soil.

Items that will not rot in soil.

Next, go to the symbol library to find more symbols and link to the appropriate web.
When completed print the page.

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Extensions

Earth Day Bookmark – All students create their own bookmark design after receiving a sample of one to follow.

Earth Care Pledge Certificates - All students create their own certificate after receiving a sample of one to follow.

The following are assignments to be completed with each student web organizer they previously made from the Inspiration Software:

Story Web – Leah’s Pony

Poem Prompt – My Nose

Picture Prompt – Lunch with Friends

Open-ended Question – Apollo 13 the Movie

Power Point – Some students present their created Let’s Care About the Earth Rap Song.

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Checklist**

- 1. Chart about Decompose Experiment**
- 2. Inspiration Web for Rot or Do Not Rot**
- 3. Inspiration Web for How Students, Family, and Community Help the Earth**
- 4. Star-W Notebook with Environmental Vocabulary**
- 5. Picture Prompt – Recycle, Reduce, Reuse**
- 6. Let's Care About Our Earth Rap Song**
- 7. Earth Day Bookmark**
- 8. Environmental Word Puzzles**
- 9. Earth Care Pledge Certificate**
- 10. Extensions:**
- 11. Inspiration Web for How to Answer an Open-Ended Question with Three Paragraphs**
- 12. Inspiration Web for the reading story – Leah's Pony**
- 13. Inspiration Web for Poem Prompt – My Nose**
- 14. Inspiration Web for Picture Prompt – Lunch with Friends**
- 15. Apollo 13 – Movie explanation and insert pictures from the Internet**

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Star-W Project Work

Teacher Name: Mrs. Larsen

Student Name: _____ Score: ____

Category	4	3	2	1
Inspiration Organizers	Organizers are created with correct sequence for all topics with full understanding.	Organizers are completed with correct sequence for all topics with minimal errors.	Organizers have important sequence missing and many errors.	Organizers are not in a correct sequence or sequence is missing. Many errors.
Paragraph Construction	Paragraphs have well structured introduction, main idea, detail, and conclusion sentences. Minimal or no grammatical & spelling errors.	Most paragraphs have good structure with some grammatical & spelling errors.	Paragraphs have main idea but lack detail sentences. Many grammatical & spelling errors.	Paragraphs are not written correctly. Many errors and does not keep on topic.
Internet Use	Uses websites successfully to find information to relate to project work with full understanding. Applies information well.	Needs some assistance to use websites successfully to find information for the project. Applies information adequately.	Needs assistance to use websites. Partially successful to find information for the project. Does not apply information.	Needs assistance to use websites. Needs assistance to find information for the project. Unable to apply information correctly.

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Rubric Score Equivalent

4 = A = 90 to 100

3 = B = 80 to 89

2 = C = 70 to 79

1 = D = 65 to 69

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Self-Evaluation

At the start of this project I was so excited and enthused over receiving the laptops in my classroom. As each lesson needed to be created the work seemed to be extremely overwhelming. However, as I began to get flooded with technology knowledge I began to see how wonderful this is for the students. The students seem to have a whole lot more prior knowledge than me, the teacher. I find the students definitely need the direction of the teacher. Based on this fact, I now know I need to learn everything there is to know on how to implement technology into my daily lessons.

My experience with the laptops and the use of the Inspiration Software was an incredible different level of teaching and learning with the students. The students are more motivated and more focused when they are given an assignment to complete with the laptops. We had a bonding of truly helping one another. There were many times students had to show me or remind me how to use the computer skills correctly.

The instrumental guidance and support of Maria Concepcion, Eileen O'Farrell, Barbara Deitmaring, and Loretta Amara are untold hours of reassuring me that "you can do this", "you will get it as you keep doing it". Well, the proof is my final project of the class collaborative book, the unit requirement package for other teachers, and all work saved on a floppy disk. I could not do any of these things before I had this year's training. I have learned that "I can do it" and that "I will continue to get it as I keep doing it" just like the coaches and trainers said.

I look forward to next year's project as well as incorporating technology in my daily lessons with far greater technology knowledge than I ever could imagine I now have. Thank you to everyone, which includes my coworkers and my outstanding students, for this great educational endeavor. We did it! I did it!