



Wild Ideas

Living With Water: Polar Bears

To expand on the Living With Water: Polar Bears activity, try these supplemental projects:

1. Snow Bears

In the winter, take students outside and have them build a polar bear, to scale, out of snow. This helps students appreciate the huge proportions of the polar bear. As they sculpt the bear from snow, start a discussion about the polar bear's wide feet, long neck, thick fur and layer of blubber as adaptations to its Arctic environment. Take a photograph of the class with the snow bear and send it to your local MP along with a letter composed by the class explaining why we must take steps to curb global warming and help protect polar bears.

2. Build A Better Car

Ask students to research alternative fuel sources for cars. Talk about ways to make cars greener by making them smaller, or by using cleaner fuel. Investigate some of the "green" cars on the market such as hybrids and smart cars, and see what makes them better for the environment than conventional cars. Ask students to construct their own green car out of a cardboard box. Hold a "green car show" in the classroom where students can present and describe the environmentally friendly features of their inventions.

3. Create A Green Team

Invite students to create a school environmental group. Projects could include overseeing efficient recycling in the school, brainstorming ways to make the school more "green", creating posters to help educate other students, organizing recycling drives to collect bottles, cans, old clothes, blankets, etc. and putting them to good use. They could also organize schoolyard or shoreline cleanups, local tree planting, and hold litterless lunches. Students could also write letters to government officials and educate others in their community about important environmental issues such as global warming and water conservation.