

Teacher's Guide to the Poster

A Declaration for Sustainable Living (Grades 5 to 12)

UNESCO's Four Pillars of Education*

Education is

- learning to know
- learning to live together
- learning to do
- learning to be

The United Nations has declared the years 2005 to 2014 as the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

* International Commission on Education for the Twenty-First Century. *Learning: The Treasure Within*. Report to UNESCO. Paris, FR: UNESCO Publishing, 1996.

DNA Genetic research has shown that there is only one race—the human race. We need to work together to stop racism and other forms of discrimination.

Poverty Four-fifths of the inhabitants of Earth live in poverty. Child labour and fair trade are two issues we affect through our consumer choices.

Think Globally, Act Locally The choices we make each day affect people in other places. The food for an average Canadian meal has travelled thousands of kilometres. Choose locally produced foods (e.g., the 100-kilometre diet).

Speak Your Mind No idea is too small, no action too little. We can make a difference.

Turtle Island Turtle Island is the name given to this continent by many First Nations peoples. For some, the turtle represents traditional respect for Mother Earth and the need to sustain the environment for seven generations to come.

Alternative Power Sources Wind, solar, geothermal.... Explore clean and renewable alternatives to fossil fuels.

Alternative Transportation Ride a bike, rollerblade, or walk. Stay healthy and reduce the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere.

Seven Rs Recycling is just the start. Find ways to *reduce, reuse, rethink, replant, resist* and *refuse*.

Nutrition Facts Are genetically modified organisms the answer to our food problems or do they open a Pandora's box? Be informed and consider the implications of how food is grown, produced and distributed.



The Earth Carried by the Sun on a 225-million-year trip around the centre of our galaxy, this Earth is all we have and we need to protect it.

Stand up for Earth Every voice is important! Every action makes a difference.

Vitamin D Molecule Limited exposure to sunlight helps us to create vitamin D, the sunshine vitamin that we need for healthy growth and well-being.

Ask Questions Get answers. We need to be informed and make responsible decisions.

H₂O Water is necessary for life on Earth. It is our most precious resource. Conserve it. Protect it.

Make Some Noise We need to be active, responsible citizens who take a stand and speak out for justice, equality and human rights.

Fashion Victim "Fad" does not mean fashionable. "Designer" does not mean desirable. The true price of clothing can be much greater than its actual cost. Sweat shops and child labour create fashion victims at both ends of the purchase. If a purchase is inexpensive, someone or something is paying the price somewhere down the line.

CO₂ If all the Earth's inhabitants consumed resources and generated CO₂ at North American standards, we would need three Earths to sustain us. Can one individual make a difference? Yes. Use less and go carbon neutral.

Our Interconnected World See that everything around us is connected. Know that everything we do has consequences. Envision what we can do to contribute to our global community.

Teacher's Guide to the Poster

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This poster was created to inspire and encourage teachers and students in Manitoba classrooms to learn about, and to take action related to, sustainable development. It was designed to promote thoughtful discussion and informed decision making, and to encourage students to live a more conscious and conscientious lifestyle that contributes to quality of life for all, locally, nationally and globally. The poster is meant to be used as a starting point for learning about sustainable development and as a focal point for long-term exploration of sustainability issues and solutions.

What Is Sustainable Development?

The concept of sustainable development includes three interdependent factors that contribute to quality of life: human health and well-being, the environment and the economy.



As students explore how these three sustainable development factors affect quality of life, they come to understand the positive difference they can make in their community and in the greater world. Through this process, students learn to think about their own and others' needs and to consider the needs of future generations.

How to Use the Poster

Classroom teachers can use the poster as an educational resource across the curriculum to promote sustainable living at school and in the community.

Initially, teachers could use the poster to activate student thinking about sustainable development.

Possible Activity

Provide small groups of students with copies of the poster and the sustainable development Venn diagram (illustrated at left). Students brainstorm connections between the three factors in the diagram and the images in the poster. In a teacher-mediated full-class discussion, students compare their observations. (To assist in the class discussion, refer to the descriptions of the poster images on the reverse.)



Following an activation strategy, such as the one suggested, students could engage in more formal learning activities related to sustainable development. Encourage students to explore issues in their school and local community, as well as elsewhere in the world.

As students engage in education for sustainable development, they will have opportunity to reflect on the personal choices and decisions they make in their daily lives and to make changes that will contribute to quality of life for all, locally, nationally and globally.

Teachers are encouraged to integrate education for sustainable development into all aspects of their classroom teaching, both formally and informally. Informal examples include daily classroom and school practices such as promoting garbage-free lunches, reducing paper use, and walking or bicycling to school.

For additional information and ideas on education for sustainable development, including specific curricular links to social studies, science and physical education/health education, visit the Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth website at <www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/esd/>.

Take a Stand, Make a Declaration

Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth encourages teachers and students to go beyond simply using the poster as a starting point for learning activities. Consider using the declaration statements to make a public commitment to sustainable living. This declaration might take place as an activity in the classroom, as a more formal ceremony in a school assembly or as a community event involving parents and other community members.

If students willingly make a public commitment to a more sustainable lifestyle, and if they see their peers and the adults in their lives doing the same, they are more likely to make personal choices and decisions that will contribute to the well-being and betterment of their communities and to quality of life for all, locally, nationally and globally.

Additional Copies

Additional copies of the poster (stock number 80585) and teacher's guide (stock number 80586) are available from:

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