

Lesson 7: Doing the Action Plan

OVERVIEW:

In this lesson students will complete the class action plan that they have been developing and revising throughout the module. Students will carry out each step of the action plan to meet their specific goal to improve their field site/school/community. Students will reflect on their experience and think about continuing these ideas outside of science class.

SUB-QUESTION:

How can I contribute to my community?

WAYS OF KNOWING URBAN ECOLOGY:



Students will...

Understand

- Understand the ways that action planning can apply to their everyday lives.

Talk

- Encourage others to engage in the activities involved with improving the ecological systems at their site.

Do

- Engage in the activities involved with improving the ecological systems at their site.

Act

- Work together to complete the actionable steps of their action plan to meet their goals.
- Reflect on their experiences in terms of what went well, what went poorly, and how the plan could have been improved.

SAFETY GUIDELINES

Safety precautions associated with working in the field.

PREPARATION:

- You may need to help students ahead of time in either the collection or organization of materials for the action plan.

Time:

1-5 class periods

Note: The length will vary depending on the action plan your students develop.

Materials:

Materials and resources associated with your specific action plan.

Student Sheets

INSTRUCTIONAL SEQUENCE

Activity 7.1: Completing the action plan

1. Introduce this lesson by reviewing all the steps of the action plan that your class has completed: envisioning possibilities, identifying stakeholders, and seeking resources.
2. Have students take out the resources they collected or identify the human resources they can draw upon.
 - a. If necessary have students bring in the resources ahead of time to make sure all of the resources are available when they are needed.
3. Review the actionable steps created in the class action plan.
4. Divide up the class into groups. Assign certain groups to steps. Even if you are working as a class throughout the action plan, a group of students could act as “managers” over a few of the steps. Participation by outside volunteers and community members may provide an added resource and opportunity; such experiences are valuable for the students, the school, and the community.
5. Complete the action plan according to the planned and written steps. If there needs to be an adjustment, address the modification or change as a class.

Activity 7.2: Reflection

1. Once the action plan has been completed students should reflect on how they think it went. Pass out the student sheets and have students answer the questions.
2. Discuss student’s responses as a class.

Concluding the Lesson

1. Ask students: What other sites that you know of could benefit from students and community members working together on an environmental action plan?
 - Why are these sites important to you?
 - What possibilities would you envision for them?
 - Do you feel ready to tackle these new projects?