

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will understand the importance of environmental conservation, particularly in relation to the Tennessee River. They will learn how to express their thoughts and feelings about the river through various art forms, write a short essay on its historical significance, and understand mathematical concepts related to measurement and data collection in environmental studies.

Materials and Prep

- Notebook and pen/pencil for writing
- Art supplies (paper, markers, colored pencils, etc.)
- Access to the internet for research
- Measuring tape or ruler (if available)
- Map of the Tennessee River (optional for reference)

Before the lesson, ensure the student is familiar with the local environment and has a basic understanding of the Tennessee River's geography and significance.

Activities

- **Environmental Art Project:**

The student will create a piece of art that represents the beauty of the Tennessee River. This could be a painting, drawing, or collage using natural materials found outdoors. Encourage them to think about the colors and shapes that represent the river.

- **Essay Writing:**

The student will write a short essay about the historical significance of the Tennessee River. They should research its role in local history, including its use for transportation and industry, and its impact on the local ecosystem.

- **Math and Measurement Activity:**

If possible, the student can measure a specific area along the river (e.g., a section they plan to clean) and calculate the area. They can also collect data on the types of trash found and create a simple chart or graph to represent their findings.

- **Music and Nature:**

The student can create a short song or rap about the importance of keeping the river clean. This activity encourages them to think creatively about environmental issues while integrating music.

- **Physical Activity:**

Plan a cleanup day along the river where the student can physically participate in cleaning up litter. This hands-on activity will reinforce the importance of taking action to protect the environment.

Talking Points

- "The Tennessee River is not just a body of water; it's a vital resource for wildlife and people."

Can you think of ways it impacts your daily life?"

- "Art can be a powerful way to express what we feel about our environment. How do you think your artwork can inspire others to care for the river?"
- "Understanding the history of the Tennessee River helps us appreciate its value. What interesting facts did you find about its past?"
- "Math isn't just about numbers; it can help us understand our environment better. How can measuring the area help us in our cleanup efforts?"
- "Creating music about environmental issues can raise awareness. What message do you want to share through your song?"
- "Participating in cleanup activities is a way to take action. How does it feel to contribute to the health of the river?"