



## Increasing Literacy through History Learning

### Correlates to Environmental History Lesson Plans

[http://www.bringinghistoryhome.org/downloads/Second/2\\_Env\\_LessonPlans.pdf](http://www.bringinghistoryhome.org/downloads/Second/2_Env_LessonPlans.pdf)

#### **Activity 1: Mapping the American Landscape**

##### **Literacy Activities in the Lesson:**

1. Access prior knowledge (schema) about land forms (mountains, plains, forests, swamps, oceans).
2. Vocabulary: students learn the definition of a relief map.
3. Graphic organizer: students study and illustrate a map of the USA with land forms delineated.

#### **Activity 2: Where Do These Things Come From?**

##### **Literacy Activities in the Lesson:**

1. Vocabulary Building: students learn the definition of "raw ingredients" and "finished products."
2. Graphic Organizer: map of the USA with raw materials and finished products showcased on the map.

#### **Activity 3: Gathering Natural Resources**

##### **Literacy Activities in the Lesson:**

1. Access prior knowledge (schema) about "history."

#### **Activity 4: Timeline of Farming**

##### **Literacy Activities in the Lesson:**

1. Visualizing: students use photos from farming long ago and farming today to create a chart in their minds to create a t-chart of farming today and long ago.



## Activity 5: Where We Log, Farm and Mine. What Happens to the Earth?

### Literacy Activities in the Lesson:

1. Questioning before, during and after the read aloud of The Lorax.
2. Graphic Organizer: Venn diagram. Compare and contrast The Lorax book and video.
3. Questioning before, during and after the read aloud of Everglades.
4. Questioning before, during and after the read aloud of V is For Vanishing.

## Activity 6: Our Public Lands

### Literacy Activities in the Lesson:

1. Questioning before, during and after read aloud of Common Ground.
2. Visualizing: students add photos of Muir, Roosevelt, and Pinchot to class timeline.
3. Noting details/determining importance of environmentalists: Muir, Roosevelt, and Pinchot.

## Activity 7: Problems Caused by Manufacturing

### Literacy Activities in the Lesson:

1. Questioning before, during and after read aloud of A River Ran Wild.
2. Question for after reading: How is this kind of pollution different from the kinds of problems we've been studying?
3. Synthesizing: students study photos of pollution and use them to tell a historical story about environmental problems and solutions.

## Activity 8: Seeking Solutions to the Problems

### Literacy Activities in the Lesson:

1. Think Aloud while reading Rachel: The Story of Rachel Carson.



2. Determining Importance/Noting Details about Rachel Carson from website biographical information.
3. Vocabulary Building: Focus on “Congress.”
4. Vocabulary Building: Focus on “Acts” (laws).
5. Vocabulary Building: Focus on “Clean Water and Clean Air Act.”
6. Writing: Label and write captions for photos in collage.

## Activity 9: Super Heroes for the Environment

### Literacy Activities in the Lesson:

1. Synthesize: students create and write a superhero story to showcase knowledge learned throughout unit.