

FOSTERING KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT AMONG PUPILS THROUGH GUIDED VIEWING OF SELECTED CARTOONS In Primary Schools

Guided Viewing of the Cartoon Exhibition on Environmental Subjects

Program Objectives

- A. To arouse awareness and interest on subjects of the environment and the preservation of nature among high school pupils.
- B. To attain knowledge and understanding on environmental subjects through guided self-study.
- C. To foster learning in a computerized environment.

The proposed educational program is based on viewing a selection of chosen cartoons on environmental subjects; in this lesson, focus will be placed primarily on the subject of recycling.

The guided educational process will encourage pupils to take a positive stand on the subject of the environment and will increase awareness on their part in order to encourage them to take action in their immediate environment.

Program Structure

Begins with Stages of Acquiring Knowledge and Discussion in the Class – Acquiring Knowledge – Taking a Stand – Taking Action

A series of 4-5 sessions within the framework of citizenship studies and social studies. For illustration purposes, we will use cartoons describing environmental subjects.

Session Topics – General Background

- 1. Recycling waste in our environment and in a modern industrialized society.
- 2. Air, water and soil pollution by dangerous materials.

3. Polluting factors – factories and individuals (vehicles, garbage).
4. Legislation against polluters and law enforcement, existing laws and recommendations for new, necessary laws and regulations.

Project to Encourage Recycling in Haifa's Elementary Schools – Learning-Educational Process

During the lesson, we will focus on the subject of recycling:

- Waste collection – under the responsibility of the local authority, sorting out waste and marketing it to industry.
- Production of raw materials – the production of a recycled product – purchasing a product made of recycled materials.

Definition of the concept of recycling: The process of removing certain materials from the flow of garbage and using them as raw materials for the production of new products.

1. The pupil will internalize the importance of recycling in the modern world.
2. The pupil will learn about the global revolution on the subject of recycling.
3. The pupil will feel the need to take action and contribute to his immediate environment.

Conscious Objectives

1. The pupil will cite at least three environmental problems that result due to the non-recycling of materials.
2. The pupil will offer several possibilities of treating solid waste in general and recycling in particular.
3. The pupil will formulate a personal stand on the subject and suggest several ways of taking action to ensure a better environment. He/she will express his/her position by writing letters to the local authority or a local newspaper, or by drawing a cartoon.

Guided Viewing of the Cartoon Exhibition on the Subject of the Environment

Emotional Objects: Where am I in the picture?

1. What do I see in the cartoon?
2. What do I feel while I'm looking at the cartoon?
3. Why do I feel this way?
4. What I am prepared to do in order to avoid damage being caused to humankind?

In the written material to assist the teacher presented above, I recommend viewing cartoons as a teaching aide for teaching social subjects in the school. Cartoons express original ideas using artistic technique, talent and creativity. Exposure to the art of caricature enables developing a humoristic approach to help cope with environmental and social problems.

Introduction

Background material for the educational process will be taken from the websites on the topics of the Environment; cartoons will be hung on the classroom walls; and worksheets will be distributed to the pupils during the educational activities.

The teacher will begin the discussion: Is it important to deal with environmental subjects since this affects all of us in one way or the other. We will learn about this problem in the class and about ways of reducing it. First of all, we will enhance our knowledge on the subject.

The teacher will determine what the pupils know about the rate of the deterioration of solid waste. Solutions to the problem of the solid waste accumulation will be suggested using a True or False quiz.

- The pupils will work in groups during the educational process.
- Each pupil will stand beside a cartoon that has attracted his/her interest the most and explain why he/she has chosen to relate to this particular cartoon. A discussion will be held in each group about the reasons for choosing the cartoons.
- Each group will report to the class about the results of the discussion.

- The position of each pupil on the subject will be clarified in the class, and several plans of action for the environment will be proposed.

The teacher will summarize the lesson: In this lesson, preliminary background about the problem of the environment was presented, and we focused our attention on the need for recycling and seeking solutions to the problem of solid waste.

Lesson No. 20 – Completion of Statements by the Pupils

What bothers me the most in my immediate environment on the subject of not preserving the environment is.....

What makes me happy about what is being done is.....

The success of the recycling project depends upon.....

The responsibility placed on each and every one of us is.....

What I am willing to take upon myself to increase awareness on the subject is.....

What I am lacking in this entire issue is.....

Note: Encouraging pupils to take responsibility is an important subject, and without it, the educational process will not achieve the desired results.

Those interested in the subject should review the study unit “Responsibility for Our Country,” which was published by the Shelach and Geography Headquarters within the Society and Youth Administration of the Ministry of Education.

Editing & Coordinating by: Ronit Eshet, Director of the Steering Committee,

The International Cartoon Contest - Haifa

Haifa Municipality, P.O.B 4811, Haifa 31047, Israel