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EAP, Hialeah Campus

Objective: Increase students' awareness of our bioregion and appreciation of the wonder of nature around us.

Duration: Two class periods and 4 hour field trip.

Procedure: EAP Level 6 Reading Class

Pre teach vocabulary for students to be able to understand a reading on ecosystems:

<http://www.pbs.org/journeytoplanetearth/stateoftheplanet/ecosystems.html> .

Students:

1. Summarize the article orally in class and discuss the animals and plants living together in Hialeah, Florida.
2. Write a reflection after visiting Fairchild Tropical Garden.
3. Read the Earth Charter and discuss a principle that is important to them <http://www.kosmosjournal.org/kjo/bm~doc/earth-charter.pdf>

In future semesters, I will also show parts of the Planet Earth PBS Series.

The following are some students' reflections on Fairchild and the Earth Charter:

Reflect on why it is important that as humans we have a responsibility to preserve the earth for future generations? Did going to Fairchild help you connect to nature?

Yania:

I think that we not only have the responsibility but the obligation to preserve the earth and the environment. Since we depend on earth to survive, we should take care more of it. However humans usually are more interested in industries and technology in order to make money, and because of this, portions of earth are lost. We owe the next generations a clean earth and air to breathe, and the nature is the one that makes that possible. Going to Fairchild Botanic Garden I felt deeply connected with nature. Seeing the great variety of trees I having seen before and others that I haven't seen much around made feel attached to nature. I don't know how other people felt, but it also made me happy see plants that were originally from my country Cuba, which I remember had seen when I was there, but no more since I got here to the United States. I also think that the Fairchild Garden is not only a place to interact with nature, but also a place where the family can join and spend a good time together in a quiet place surrounded by the nature.

Denis:

Our visit to the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

This Sunday some of students of the reading 6 class visited The Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, one of the countries' greatest botanic gardens. I visited the park in company of my daughter Alejandra. At the park we could see wide collection of typical trees and plants including palms, cycads, flowering trees, vines, and succulents. Moreover, they have a train tour around the botanic garden, and there are also a restaurant, cafeteria, and a store. In addition, when you visited this place, you can memorize representative views from your native country. All in all, visiting this park could be another different way in order to have a good time. I hardly recommend visiting this wonderful place to all that haven't been there yet.

Aida:

In this botanic garden I could find a very wide variety of plants that I know from my country, Cuba. It was exiting to see again those palm trees, eucalyptus trees, pineapple trees, mango trees, and other plants like Acasia, Gardenia, and Dalia. The place is really a beauty and in addition to being a place of beauty and contemplation, such gardens also provide opportunities for education and scientific research. Also, I could note that each of the plants has a small aluminum tag that provides its scientific name. Yesterday I saw the video that I recorded that day, and It was like being there again. I saw the guide showing us the following plants.

-Musella Lasiocarpa: Is a plant with a beautiful flower.

-Boabab Adansonia: A tree.

-Cannounball tree.

- Albizia Niopoides ,and oters.

Thank you so much for this opportunity!

Youset:

It is important to preserve the Earth for future generations, because we need the ecosystems to survive without nature we would die; that's why is so important to preserve it and that is what FAIRCHILD is doing besides preserving many species in extinction, informing us, and teaching how to take of nature. Going to FAIRCHILD it has been an extraordinary experience for me because it connects me with nature. In our days we live always in a hurry that's why we never take the time to enjoy a breeze under a tree or just admire a good view with our families. FAIRCHILD and Miami-Dade College gave me this opportunity and it was marvelous, thanks.

Earth Charter Reflections

LLisel After have been reading and study the charter about Earth. I was beginning to think seriously about the importance to care the Earth. Weâ€™re all responsible for the conservation and care of Earth. No matter what our heritage or beliefs are. Together we need to care of Earth. With only one a couple minutes daily, we can see how beautiful our results would be. And we can enjoy the good things around us, for example: good usage of water, soil, preventing pollution, care for extraction and use of non-renewable resource such as mineral, fossil, fuel the ocean life. Finally all resources around us , because we are the oneâ€™s responsible to take care of earth.

EARTH CHARTER

Submitted by BAYRON (Bayron.) on 11/19/2008 9:20:01 PM

Well, I really think that this is an interesting reflection that concerns all mankind.It's very important because we can take conscince of matters in our world today and I really think that the most important items to highlight are: the sense that all of us without distinction of sex, race, religion or sexual tendency must take care of the nature and all its resources because we need nature for living; as well as, we must keep the world peace, democracy and honesty with ourselves and the people around us, for that way we can live together in a better way. Also, we must construct ways to help

people without knowledge and economic resources to promote them and they can improve as self persons and they can give good results to society.

Submitted by IRMA (Irma.) on 11/25/2008 10:31:40 AM

For me is very important to preserve the earth, because the earth is composition and structure, its atmosphere and oceans, and its environment in space. A knowledge of Earth is important because most human activities are related to interaction with the planet Earth. We have the knowledge and technology to provide for all and to reduce our impact son the environment. We need a shared vision of basic values to provide an ethical foundation for the emerging world community. But we must frame environmental protection as the moral issue that is, and bring people together to address the grave ecological circumstances we face. There are numerous solutions to the problem of global warming, as an increasing number of major businesses are discovering. But we must get started now, before it is too late. For me, respect and care for the community of life is the principles that is most important because, take care and protecting the environment where we lived, we helped of a way or other to conserve it and to protect it.

summary about the Earth .junissa

Submitted JUNISSA (on 11/24/2008 8:10:07 PM

We are in the critical moment in Earth history. Depends of us its future. we must work together to preserve the Earth like one family (us and the Earth). It is our responsibility to increase our community of life and the future generation. We live in the Earth this is our home. We have to sacrificed to help care our home. Riching the variety of animals or plants will help to the biosphere be healthy. You can see how those species are in extinction everyday. The devastation of the enviroment is encreasing everyday too. One of the cause of this is the rise of the population, but the changes depend of us. we need change our values, and the forms of living. We have to look for solutions. that would be having a responsibility and how we can live together with Earth community. We need to know how live with humility and gratitude of live.Our place in the Earth like a good human beings. caring about the human life with love, acepting our duty , showing the future generation about the values, traditions, respects, tolerances, peace and skills to preserve the Earth. In conclusion depend of us to help the Earth.