

The Earth Charter Lesson Principle 2
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Care for the community of life with understanding, compassion, and love.

Objective:

Students find the understanding, compassion, and love in their hearts for a segment of the community of life.

Materials: digital camera; large towel; magnifying glass; journal; crayons or pens.

Methods: direct experience and reflection.

Time: 1-1.5 hrs

Activities:

Students will find “their space” in a natural setting within their bioregion. It should be sufficiently away from others to not distract.

They will use their towel to sit, stand, lie, roll on within the space that they have chosen. They should choose well for they will be there for the period of the exercise.

Their first journal entry should be a brief expression of why they chose their particular space. What drew them to it. What they like about it.

While on their towels, students will observe with all their senses what they can within their spaces. After five to ten minutes of observation, students should note details and the constituents of their space. They should note this in their journals.

They should record some of their observations in their journals making sure to attend to all the senses and to use the magnifying glass.

Then they must look for an example of a thread of interconnection among the constituents and describe how they are connected and interdependent. This may be a drawing. Again the magnifying glass will be handy.

Finally, they must take a picture of their space that will be their only visual record. They may only use one picture in their journal as a recollection. Of course this will be added to the journal later, after processing.

Their final entry will be a reason that their space should be protected and cared for as it is forever making sure to demonstrate their deepened understanding for the place.

Evaluation: Completing the assignment as described should be satisfactory for teachers. Students should be encouraged to return to their places later in their term to reconsider their journal entries. It is understood that Principle 2 is a continuous learning.