



Writing our Future, Together

ACTIVITY GUIDE



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OVERVIEW

Welcome to Writing our Future, Together, a global classroom project that invites students to reflect, create, and take a meaningful pledge for the planet. Rooted in joy, simplicity, and a shared view toward a hopeful future, this project offers four flexible pathways for students to explore their relationship with our Planet Earth.

To get started, your class can select one of four lesson experiences:

- Nature Speaks: creative expression that gives voice to the natural world
- Where We Stand: connecting identity and place to environmental action
- Carried Forward: honoring traditions and practices passed down through families and cultures
- Everyday Earthkeeping: celebrating the small, daily choices that care for the planet

The project culminates in a class pledge poster, where your students add their names and commitments – marking the beginning of a future written with care, intention, and community.

We are so happy you are here!



GETTING STARTED

You're just a few simple steps away from bringing Writing our Future, Together to life in your classroom. Each lesson is designed to be flexible, meaningful, and easy to implement; no special expertise or preparation required.

Here's how to begin:

- Choose a lesson of interest: Nature Speaks, Where We Stand, Carried Forward, Everyday Earthkeeping
- Review the materials, with each lesson including an activity guide, slide deck, video, printables, and extension opportunities
- Prepare your class pledge poster, use the template or create your own version
- Lead the activity, guiding students through reflection and discussion
- Invite students to add their names and commitments to the poster
- Celebrate and share your class pledge with others—online, with another class, or in your school!

However you begin, you and your students are adding their voices to a global story – one that we're writing together, with care and purpose.

Lesson One

NATURE SPEAKS

Age Range: All ages

Time: 1 hour

Concept: Give voice to nature through storytelling, art, or music.

Essential Question: If nature could speak, what would it say to us?

Materials

- Presentation deck
- Printable
- Pledge Poster (using template or creating your own)
- Link to submit your class pledge: www.writingourfuturetogether.org

Step 1: Start Here (10 minutes)

Goal: Ground students in the theme and spark curiosity.

Activity:

- Brief class discussion or journaling prompt:
 - "Think of something from nature (example a tree, a river, or a polar bear). If it could talk to humans, what would it want to say?"
- Show a short video or image slideshow of natural elements in different environments (e.g., forests, oceans, arctic, deserts). Or check out [the prepared resources](#).

Ask:

- What emotions do you feel when you see these images?
- What do you think nature needs from us?

Activity Steps At-A-Glance

- Start Here: Awareness, curiosity, grounding
- Shape Your Voice: Creation, self-expression, identity
- Lift it Up: Sharing, reflecting, building collective meaning
- Write the Future: Pledge, action, vision

Step 2: Shape Your Voice (20 minutes)

Goal: Students creatively express the voice of a chosen element of nature.

Instructions:

Each student selects one natural element (e.g., river, bird, coral reef, mountain).

They can choose a preferred format:

- Poem
- Drawing with a caption or quote
- Writing and performing a short song
- Recording a short video or dramatic monologue (spoken aloud)
- Any other creative expression format

Prompt:

"Create something that lets your chosen element speak to humans.

What do they care about? What are they asking from us?"

Support younger students with sentence starters or drawing templates.



Lesson One

NATURE SPEAKS

Step 3: Lift It Up (15 minutes)

Goal: Share and reflect on the meaning behind the work.

Activity:

Invite students to share their creations with the group (gallery walk, open mic, or small groups depending on time/age).

Encourage positive feedback using prompts like:

- "What part of their piece stood out to you?"
- "What did their nature character teach us?"

Step 4: Write the Future (15 minutes)

Goal: Turn creative work into a commitment.

Activity:

- Develop your class Pledge for the Planet Statement incorporating a commitment that represents your class interests and feelings. Add the commitment to the "Pledge for the Planet Poster" template or create your own. (See page 19)
- Invite each student to write their name on the poster.

Wrap-up discussion:

- "What small thing can we do this week to honor our pledge?"
- Display your final Pledge Poster in your classroom or a community space.

Optional Follow-up

Set a reminder to revisit it in a month and reflect: Have we lived it out?

Create a class "Nature Speaks" wall or digital gallery featuring each student's work and the pledge.

Share photos and messages about your pledge in your class newsletter or school website/social media page.

Take the Global Pledge

Add your class pledge to our global platform at writingourfuturetogether.org

Lesson One

NATURE SPEAKS

Adaptations and Extensions

Younger students: focus more on drawing and simple sharing

Older students: expand into environmental research, public presentations, or digital storytelling

Cross-curricular extension: connect with science (habitats, ecosystems) or music/ drama (performance-based projects)



School: Kakuma TAG School

Location: Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya

Lesson: Nature Speaks

Teachers: Franco Ohisa, Simon Oliha, William Amany, Angelo Oriomo

Student ages: 12-20 years old

Materials: Large pieces of writing paper, colored pencils

Reflections: Students united around a message for the planet and added their names and drawings to their school "Pledge for the Planet." The activity allowed for a celebration of local action and a call for advocacy for the world to have visibility into the effects of climate change in the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya.

Lesson Two

WHERE WE STAND

Age Range: All ages

Time: 1 hour

Concept: Connecting our identities and communities to local and global change

Essential Question: Where do we stand, and how can we make a difference?

Materials

- Presentation deck
- Printable
- Pledge Poster (using template or creating your own)
- Link to submit your class pledge: www.writingourfuturetogether.org

Step 1: Start Here (10 minutes)

Goal: Spark curiosity about local nature and environmental issues.

Activity: Ask students:

- "What do you notice about the environment around where we live?"
- "What's something nature (or our world) needs from us right here, right now?"

Optional: Show recent photos or news headlines about a local issue (e.g., water quality, wildfires, pollution, endangered species, drought, etc.).

Activity Steps At-A-Glance

- Start Here: Awareness, curiosity, grounding
- Shape Your Voice: Creation, self-expression, identity
- Lift it Up: Sharing, reflecting, building collective meaning
- Write the Future: Pledge, action, vision

Step 2: Shape Your Voice (20 minutes)

Goal: Research or investigate a local environmental concern and form a personal perspective.

Activity:

Students explore a specific local issue either from a teacher-prepared list, a short article, or simple class research.

Examples:

- Water use and drought
- Litter or pollution in a nearby area
- Threatened plants or animals
- Urban development affecting green space
- Air quality

Invite students to fill in the graphic organizer (or take notes on a piece of paper):

- What is happening?
- Why does it matter?
- What do I care about?
- What change would I like to see?



Lesson Two

WHERE WE STAND

Step 3: Lift It Up (15 minutes)

Goal: Share findings and connect with concerns of classmates.

Activity:

Students briefly present their issue or stance to small groups or the whole class.

Create a "Where We Stand" wall or chart:

- Each student adds a card or sticky note with their name and the issue they care about most. Group similar issues to see patterns or shared concerns.

Reflect together:

- "What do we notice when we see all our voices together?"
- "Which issues keep coming up?"

Step 4: Write the Future (15 minutes)

Goal: Turn personal awareness into a local action and a Pledge for the Planet.

Activity:

Print and prepare or create a "Pledge for the Planet" Poster. (See page 19)

Option 1: Invite each student to write their name on the poster. With a short, personal pledge based on what they learned, for example:

- "I will help clean up my park every month."
- "I will advocate for alternative transportation to my family and friends."

Option 2: Combine ideas to create a class action goal with a pledge, for example "As a class, we stand for clean water and commit to reducing waste in our school."

Wrap-up discussion: "What small thing can we do this week to honor our pledge?"

Display your final Pledge Poster in your classroom or a community space.

Optional Follow-up

Set a reminder to revisit it in a month and reflect:

Have we lived it out?

Create posters or digital infographics to raise awareness about the issues students researched.

Share photos and messages about your pledge in your class newsletter or school website/social media page.

Take the Global Pledge

Add your class pledge to our global platform at writingourfuturetogether.org

Lesson Two

WHERE WE STAND

Adaptations and Extensions

Younger students: focus on observation and care instead of research by taking an interactive nature walk or engaging in a real-aloud picture book (with prompts of I see _____. I care about _____. I can help by _____).

Older students: deepen the research using and citing primary sources and relevant data.

Make civic connections: invite a local environmental group or city representative to speak.

Compare local issues with similar ones in other parts of the world at www.writingourfuturetogether.org.



Centre: Di Cawna Library at the Montego Bay Boys and Girls Club
with students from Corinaldi Primary School (in pink), Catherine Hall Primary School (in blue) and Brightly Beam Preschool (in red)
Location: Montego Bay, St. James. Jamaica
Lesson: Where We Stand

Teacher: Brianna Lopez

Student ages: ages 5-9

Preparation: Papers printed, pencils provided, discussions about climate change held, book "I Can Do My Part" read.

Reflections: Students in Jamaica participated in the Where We Stand activity, reflecting on their role in protecting the environment. By taking the Pledge for the Planet, they committed to making sustainable choices and standing up for the future of the Earth – connecting climate literacy and storytelling. Understanding the impact of climate change locally, they hope to get the stories of Jamaica out to the world!

Lesson Three

CARRIED FORWARD

Age Range: All ages (with modifications)
Time: 1 hour
Concept: Honoring traditions, knowledge, and practices passed down across generations
Essential Question: What everyday and inherited practices help protect the Earth, and how can we carry them forward?

Materials

- Presentation deck
- Printable
- Pledge Poster (using template or creating your own)
- Link to submit your class pledge: www.writingourfuturetogether.org

Step 1: Start Here (10 minutes)

Goal: Activate thinking about home, heritage, and sustainability.

Activity: Ask students:

"What is something your family or community does that's good for the Earth?"

"Has someone in your life taught you a way to care for nature?"

Show a few examples (from different cultures or families):

- Composting food scraps
- Reusing containers or clothes
- Walking instead of driving
- Cooking from scratch using local ingredients
- Passing down respect for animals, plants, or water

Activity Steps At-A-Glance

- Start Here: Awareness, curiosity, grounding
- Shape Your Voice: Creation, self-expression, identity
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- Write the Future: Pledge, action, vision

Step 2: Shape Your Voice (20 minutes)

Goal: Invite students to reflect on a tradition, story, or habit that they have learned from someone else.

Activity:

Students choose one practice or lesson they've learned that helps protect nature.

Provide time for them to write or draw about:

- Who taught it to them?
- What is the practice?
- Why does it matter for the Earth?
- How might they carry it forward?

Option: Use sentence starters like: "My grandmother taught me to...", "In my culture, we...", "I remember learning to..."



Lesson Three

CARRIED FORWARD

Step 3: Lift It Up (15 minutes)

Goal: Share and celebrate passed-down wisdom.

Activity:

- Students share their reflections in small groups or with the whole class.
- Create a "Carried Forward" wall or mural:
- Each student adds a short phrase or drawing of the practice they're honoring.
- Connect them with lines, symbols, or colors to show shared values (e.g., respect for water, no waste, planting, walking).

Reflect together:

- "What themes do we see in these traditions?"
- "How is caring for the Earth part of our stories and identities?"

Step 4: Write the Future (15 minutes)

Goal: Make a commitment to honor and continue one tradition, or start a new one.

Activity:

Print and prepare or create a "Pledge for the Planet" poster. (See page 19)

Invite each student to add their name and write a short pledge on the class poster:

- "I will carry forward..."
- "To honor the Earth and my community, I will..."
- "The lesson I will pass on is..."

Wrap-up discussion:

"What small thing can we do this week to honor our pledge?"

Display your final Pledge Poster in your classroom or a community space.

Optional Follow-up

Set a reminder to revisit it in a month and reflect: Have we lived it out?

Pair with a small action (teach someone at home, document your Earth-honoring practice, or record and share an oral history).

Share photos and messages about your pledge in your class newsletter or school website/social media page.

Take the Global Pledge

Add your class pledge to our global platform at writingourfuturetogether.org

Lesson Three

CARRIED FORWARD

Adaptations and Extensions

Younger students: focus on storytelling and simple actions instead of formal writing by inviting in a guest speaker, bringing in real items (e.g. gardening tools, recycling bags, etc), or creating a shared class book of ideas.

Older students: focus on deeper research with interviews and analysis.

Make connections to climate justice and indigenous practices.

Encourage cultural sharing by comparing and contrasting pledges from students in different parts of the world by visiting www.writingourfuturetogether.org.



School: Sentrong Paaralan ng mga Agta

Location: Aurora, Philippines

Lesson: Carried Forward

Students: Indigenous Agta Community

Reflections: Teacher Jake did the Carried Forward lesson because he wanted to honor the legacy of the Agta as guardians of their ancestral lands. It was beautiful to see our Indigenous learners connect with the activity – not just as a class exercise, but as a reflection of their identity and responsibility.

Lesson Four

EVERYDAY EARTHKEEPING

Age Range: All ages

Time: 1 hour

Concept: Celebrating simple, daily choices that care for the Earth right now

Essential Question: How can our everyday choices help take care of the Earth?

Materials

- Presentation deck
- Printable
- Pledge Poster (using template or creating your own)
- Link to submit your class pledge: www.writingourfuturetogether.org

Step 1: Start Here (10 minutes)

Goal: Make environmental care feel immediate and doable.

Activity: Ask students:

"What's one small thing you already do (or could start doing) to help the Earth?"

Brainstorm as a class and list on the board. Encourage ideas like:

- Turning off lights
- Picking up trash
- Using a reusable water bottle
- Walking or biking
- Packing a zero-waste lunch
- Fixing or reusing items

Activity Steps At-A-Glance

- Start Here: Awareness, curiosity, grounding
- Shape Your Voice: Creation, self-expression, identity
- Lift it Up: Sharing, reflecting, building collective meaning
- Write the Future: Pledge, action, vision

Step 2: Shape Your Voice (20 minutes)

Goal: Reflect on and express a personal Earthkeeping habit or goal.

Activity: Students choose one small action they do or want to commit to (can be at home, school, or in the community). Invite students to write or draw about their action: Why it matters. How it helps the Earth, What it takes to stick with it

Prompt options:

- "I can help the Earth by..."
- "This choice matters because..."
- "I will keep doing this by taking these steps: ..."

Considerations and options:

For younger students: Use sentence starters or drawings.

For older students: Create a mini persuasive post or visual Public Service Announcement (PSA) for their chosen action. A PSA is a message delivered through media to raise awareness for an issue.



Lesson Four

EVERYDAY EARTHKEEPING

Step 3: Lift It Up (15 minutes)

Goal: Celebrate consistency and collective action.

Activity:

Invite students to share their actions with the class or in small groups.

- Create an “Everyday Earthkeeping Tracker” board (on a classroom wall or on a digital board).
- Each student adds their name and their action.

Option to update weekly or monthly.

Group discussion:

- “Which actions came up most often?”
- “Which ones are new or inspiring?”
- “Why do little things matter when we do them together?”

Step 4: Write the Future (15 minutes)

Goal: Make a commitment to everyday change, and keep it going.

Activity:

Print and prepare or create a “Pledge for the Planet” poster. (See page 19)

Invite each student to add their name and write a short pledge on the class poster:

- Every day, I will...”
- “This week, I commit to...”

Wrap-up discussion:

“Who can we share our commitment with to help keep us accountable?”

Display your final Pledge Poster in your classroom or a community space.

Optional Follow-up

Track one class-wide Earthkeeping behavior (e.g., reusable bottles, waste-free snacks).

Invite a guest speaker from the community to present or watch a video.

Share photos and messages about your pledge in your class newsletter or school website/social media page.

Take the Global Pledge

Add your class pledge to our global platform at writingourfuturetogether.org

Lesson Four

EVERYDAY EARTHKEEPING

Adaptations and Extensions

Younger students: have students draw actions and say them aloud.

Older students: create a campaign or service project.

Make connections to climate justice and indigenous practices.

Request feedback by other global classrooms by sharing with your pledge at www.writingourfuturetogether.org.



School: Delhi Public Schools Lava Nagpur

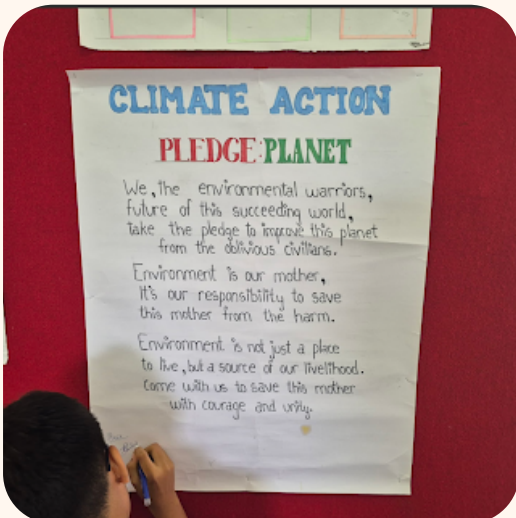
Location: Lava Nagpur, India

Lesson: Everyday Earthkeeping

Teacher: Shahnaaz Ojha

Student ages: Middle ages

Reflections: Following a group activity, students worked together to develop a pledge for the planet representative of the actions they hoped to take together as a school. This public pledge was expressed in a poster with space for all to sign with their written names as their commitments.



School: Delhi Public Schools Nashik

Location: Lava Nagpur, India

Teacher: Sanila Sayyed

Student ages: Middle ages

Reflections: At DPS Nashik, students connected writing to activism and sustainability by creating a class pledge with a "Warriors for our Earth Climate Commitment." They penned down the "Pledge for Planet" to express their commitment towards protecting and preserving the environment. Through this pledge, they have taken ownership as young environmental warriors, acknowledging their role in safeguarding the planet.

A PLEDGE FOR THE PLANET

We pledge to protect our planet for future generations. We will amplify youth voices, advance climate education, and collaborate across fields and borders to build a sustainable and peaceful world for all. We are #WritingOurFutureTogether – and we choose action, today.



MEET OUR PLEDGE INITIATORS

At the heart of Writing our Future, Together are 100 Initiators of the Pledge for the Planet – a diverse group of world leaders, scientists, youth activists, artists, and educators from around the world who are helping launch this global call to action. As the first signatories, they are lending their voices, stories, and commitments to inspire others to join in. Their presence reminds us that change begins with individuals who choose to care, speak up, and lead with intention. Together, they help spark a movement of classrooms pledging to protect the planet – one name, one action, one future at a time.

Meet our Pledge Initiators and discover what inspired them to take the pledge.



Aida Namukose	Felisa Ford	Lindsay Zilly	Randy Ziegenfuss
Alexandra Malak	Franco Ohisa	Loise Gichuhi	Riley Justis
Alice Heiman	Geela Garcia	Maria Yaschenko	RJ Belen
Angela Busheska	Gonzalve Bich	Mark O'Sullivan	Roeland Monasch
Angelo Oriomo	Haven Cockerham	Matthew Samuda	Sanila Sayyed
Annie Woollard	Helen Sahi	Meredith McDermott	Scott Kennedy
Anu Bazarragcaa	Hila Davies	Michael Dunlea	Selma Bichbich
Astriz Peraza Juarez	Hope Kennedy	Michael Kakande	Shahnaaz Ojha
Awa Ndiaye	Ingrid Sanchez Tapia	Monica Burba	Siddharth Rajgarhia
Bram Vanbilsen	Jeff Beradelli	Nicole Loher	Sierra Quitiquit
Brenda Giacometti	Jennifer Williams	Nicole Stott	Stephen Abuakwah
Caitlin Riordan	Juan Pablo Dubini	Nishad Pawar	Sunanda Pandey
Calton Muriithi Nthama	Julee Allen	Noah Geisel	Tammy Murphy
Carter Strickland	Julieta Martinez	Paloma Lengema	Tatiana Popa
Dave Potter	Katherine Centore	Priya Joshi	Tejal Singh
David Cabero	Katherine Niemczyk	Rachael McDonald	Thomas Anthony Jones
Fabian Leonardo Cuellar	Koen Timmers	Raini Sydney	Whitney Burton
Fabio Friscia			

PLEDGE POSTER

Option 1: Use our Printable Template



Option 2: Create Your Own Poster

Be creative!

Use available resources (poster paper, chalkboard, digital display, items from nature, art materials)

EXTENSION IDEAS

Explore Another Lesson Plan

Explore another activity to see the future from a new angle: voice, place, tradition, or everyday action.

Next step: Bring in the other activities as you prefer: Nature Speaks, Where We Stand, Carried Forward, Everyday Earthkeeping.

Connect Globally

Partner with a classroom in another region to share pledges and reflections. Use letters, video messages, or virtual meetups.

Next step: Visit www.writingourfuturetogether.org.

Invite Others In

Encourage students to introduce the project to another class, grade, or family member and help them take the pledge.

Next step: Spread awareness and action! Visit www.writingourfuturetogether.org to use our invitation template or create your own.



This project was developed by Take Action Global and BIC, two organizations committed to empowering young people through creativity, education, and global citizenship. Together, they believe in the power of students to write a better future—*one word, one action, and one classroom at a time.*

#WritingOurFutureTogether