



WORKSHOP: Natural Resources
Norfolk Botanical Garden/Portsmouth Public Schools
Garden in the Schools
Educator Training Workshop
June 18, 2008

Workshop Activity Title: A Year Without Resources

Objective: The objective of this workshop is for classroom teachers to obtain and explore the many uses of the natural resources found in Virginia.

SOL correlations: SOL 4.8: The student will investigate and **identify natural resources and their importance.**

Materials: examples of six natural resources (plant, bottle of water, stuffed animal, rock, and soil), laminated pictures of the six natural resources

Classroom Connection:

This will be an activity that can incorporate the students critical and analytical thinking and writing skills.

What are our Natural Resources?

1. **Air:** Required for plants and animals to survive.
2. **Water:** Water available for both plants, and animals to use.
3. **Plants:** Plants used to control erosion, building materials, food.
4. **Animals:** Animals native to Virginia that are available for food and other life needs.
5. **Minerals:** Minerals such as coal, granite, sand, limestone and gravel used to generate electricity, and for building materials.
6. **Land:** Includes soil for plants, as well as area for animals, people and plants to live.

In groups your students will choose a natural resource from one of these options. Give them that natural resource example and their laminated picture. This is their natural resource.

The students are to describe what a year without this natural resource would be like. Have them begin with small things. For example, have them describe what they would do without water for a day, they could not shower, go swimming, brush their teeth, etc. Then have the students describe one week without this resource, then one month, then one year. How would this impact their life and the world around them?

To extend this into a geography lesson, point out some of the third world countries and explain to the students that there are many areas of the world that do not have clean water to drink, or food available to them. This is why it is important for everyone to practice conservation of our natural resources.

Also for an English assignment the students can write a one page paper describing how their lives would change without that natural resource.