

Local Conservation Action Plan

Not only do we need role models to believe we can be scientists, sometimes we need practice being a scientist to realize that we can do it! This activity is the culmination of the previous two and asks students to use what they have learned to be conservation leaders themselves. They will learn about the process of planning a conservation project, and about themselves as conservation leaders and scientists. This activity works best if students have already completed the Conservation Projects activity.

Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Identify a conservation issue in their community
- Plan a strategy for addressing this conservation issue

Materials:

- Local Conservation Action Planning Worksheet
 - [PDF worksheet](#)
 - [Editable worksheet](#)
- Optional: access to the internet for online research or local newspapers
- Optional: [Conservation Strategies document](#)

Process:

Part One: Choose a conservation project

- 1) Students can work in groups or individually.
- 2) Tell students that since they learned about actual conservation projects that scientists have taken on, it is now their turn to come up with their own conservation project that is relevant to where they live.
- 3) Provide students with the Local Conservation Action Planning Worksheet to fill out.
- 4) To complete this worksheet, students could conduct research online or using local newspapers or could go out into their community or school and interview people to learn about local conservation issues

Part Two: Conservation Action Plan

- 5) Part Two can be done as a whole class or in groups, depending on your preference.
- 6) Have students present their project proposal from part 1 and justify why they think this is the project the class or group should take on. After hearing each presentation, have students vote on the project they want to take on
 - *If students worked individually on Part 1, they would each individually present to either their new group or to the whole class.*
 - *If students worked in groups for Part 1, each group can present to the entire class, or students can keep working in their same group for Part 2, in which case you can skip the presentation and vote, since they will have already decided on a project.*

- 7) Students vote on the project they want to take on, either in groups or as a whole class.
- 8) Students fill out Part Two of the Local Conservation Action Planning Worksheet. Students may again need access to online research or members of their community to effectively fill out this part. If they do, encourage students to cite their sources.
- 9) If students need support designing conservation strategies for their project, you can provide them with the Conservation Strategies document to give them some ideas. The strategies in the first section of the Conservation Strategies document are pulled directly from the Conservation Project Overviews the students read in the Conservation Projects activity.

Extension Activity:

- If you are able to, take the next step and have your students actually enact their plan!
- Make some conservation impact in your local community.

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