

#MYPLANETMYPLEDGE TEACHER GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, students investigate solutions they can take to support climate action. Then, students share this information by creating a #MyPlanetMyPledge sign.

MATERIALS

- #MyPlanetMyPledge Activity Sheet
- #MyPlanetMyPledge Poster
- Desired art supplies (paint, markers, crayons, collage, etc.)

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What impact can I make by taking climate action?
2. What would happen if everyone took climate action?

NEXT GENERATION

SCIENCE STANDARDS

5-ESS3-1 Obtain and combine information about ways individual communities use science ideas to protect the Earth's resources and environment.

3-5-ETS1-2 Generate and compare multiple solutions to a problem based on how well they meet criteria and constraints of the design problem

LESSON PROCEDURE

1. Ask: why make a pledge?

April 22, 2020 is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. It is a great time to inspire others to take climate action to protect what all people need and love: clean air, clean water, and a liveable planet. Give students copies of the Activity Sheet and Pledge Poster.

2. Research ways to take climate action.

Instruct students to do research and brainstorm ways to take climate action. Actions may range from small, individual changes, to larger acts of civic engagement. Here are a few places for students to start:

- <https://www.un.org/en/actnow/>
- <https://www.footprintcalculator.org/>

Remind students to consider their pledge in the framework of action (what do I pledge to do?) impact (what difference will it make?) and connection to climate change (how will the action address climate change?)

Here are some examples:

1. Pledge: I will say "no, thank you" to straws

Impact: plastic waste reduction

Climate change connection: less energy to create materials reduces greenhouse gas emissions

2. Pledge: I will bike to school

Impact: fuel reduction

Climate change connection: reduces greenhouse gas emissions

3. Pledge: I will educate others about how eating less meat helps the environment

Impact: increased knowledge among friends and family

Climate change connection: meat production contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, soil degradation, and water consumption

Ask students to consider what impact it would have if everyone in the class, school, or world took their pledge to climate action.

3. Make a pledge and decorate.

Using the provided poster as a template, instruct students to pick a pledge that is feasible and meaningful to them. Invite students to be creative, fill the page, and make it bold enough for people to read.

4. Share with the world!

Encourage students to display their poster in a visible place for Earth Day. If able, have students take a picture of their pledge, share with you, and post on social media tagging @earthdayoregon and @ecology4kids. Put together an album of the posters to share with the class.