

Creative Lessons To Open Classrooms & Minds To The World.



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Twelfth Grade Lesson Plan

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LESSON PLAN TITLE

Developing Sustainable Cities

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SUMMARY AND RATIONALE

The sustainability of our neighborhoods, communities and cities are the responsibility of each citizen of the world. It is imperative that as global citizens, we preserve our planet for ourselves and for future generations. This can be achieved on a local level with the goal of building and maintaining sustainable communities by getting students to recognize the gaps in their own cities, it is a way to begin the process of sustainability at the grassroots level.

GRADE

12th

TIME FRAME

Two-50 minute periods

SUBJECTS

Social studies
Language Arts
Any research project
Independent or collaborative study
Science
Engineering/Project Lead the Way

STANDARDS

SDG 11 which reads: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

UNDERSTANDING

Students will review SDG#11 and understand that it is their responsibility to advocate for sustainable cities and a sustainable earth.

INSTRUCTIONAL GOAL

- Students will connect United Nations SDG 11 to their own community.
- Students will research and identify how their communities already are working toward sustainability.
- Students will identify possible solutions to make their communities more sustainable.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- In groups of three or four, students will review SDG #11, define what it means to have sustainable cities, brainstorm ways in which students can contribute toward the preservation of the planet, research their local government's sustainability efforts, and brainstorm possible solutions to address any gaps in those efforts.
- Students will complete assigned projects with 80% accuracy within the allotted time.
- Students will be able to define sustainability, brainstorm ideas 2-3 ideas leading to the preservation of the planet, identify 2-3 efforts towards sustainability, identify 2-3 gaps in sustainability, and brainstorm 2-3 possible solutions to make their city more sustainable.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What can we do as individuals to contribute towards a sustainable neighborhood?
- What can we do in our communities to ensure that we are contributing toward the sustainability of our cities?
- What is our responsibility as global citizens toward ensuring that we preserve our planet for the next generation?
- In what ways is my community (un)sustainable? How can my community become more sustainable?

PLAN OR SEQUENCE OF ACTIVITIES

Students will work in groups of three or four to complete the following activities:

1. Watch the UN video on sustainable cities and communities. Discuss how the UN defines sustainability and have students brainstorm how students see sustainability in their own communities.
2. Working in groups or partners, students Google their city or state to examine 1. 2-3 ways that their city or state is sustainable, 2. 2-3 ways that their city is not sustainable.
3. Look at the UN Sustainable Development Goal 11 Targets, examining gaps in their own cities/states.
4. Brainstorm 2-3 possible solutions to make their city more sustainable.
5. Students research sustainability efforts in one other city in another country of their choosing.

ASSESSMENT

Completed graphic organizer and final paragraph that demonstrates understanding of the gap between their city and the UN's ideal with possible ways to move forward.

SEQUENCE OF ACTIVITIES**RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS**

A computer
Pen or pencil
Paper
Access to city document

RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS

A computer
City documents
Video about SDG 11
Link to UN Sustainable Development Goal 11

EXTENSION

If more time is available OR as part of a CAPSTONE PROJECT lead students a more in-depth process of understanding the intricacies of local city governance. Have students work towards ACTION about encouraging greater sustainability in their local community through the process of governance. NOTE: students could also consider these issues from a STATE perspective

1. Students will read closely and understand complex city governance documents that address sustainability specifically.
2. Identify areas of needs within the city based on the goals and objectives of SDG #11 and connect it to a process of addressing those needs within the city process of governance.
3. Design solutions in collaboration with other stakeholders to address greater sustainability.

ENGLISH 12, UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL #1:
SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

STEP 1

After watching the UN SDG video, consider how you would define sustainability:

Sustainability is...

STEP 2

From your own experience, write down 1-2 ways do you see sustainability around you in your city?

1.

2.

STEP 3

Research and Google our city/state. Many cities will include information including sustainability plans. If you can't find any information on your specific city, consider searching your state to see what it outlines.

STEP 4

Identify 2-3 ways that your city/state is already sustainable:

1.

2.

3.

STEP 4

Identify 2-3 ways that your city/state is already not sustainable:

1.

2.

3.

STEP 5

Examine the UN Sustainable Goal 11 Targets document and identify 2-3 gaps between the document and what your city/state does not do (these may relate to the items in Step 4 that you've already identified).

1.

2.

STEP 6

Consider the gaps that you've selected

1. With your group, brainstorm possible solutions and steps towards that solution, aiming for specificity (ex: develop a composting program at school - develop a proposal for the school that considers location of compost pile or composting bins, look up possible grants, etc.).
2. In addition, consider allies within the city or community who could assist with the proposed solutions.

STEP 7

Considering the larger context: What is our responsibility as global citizens toward ensuring that we preserve our planet for the next generation?

