

1st Grade Language Arts Extension Teacher's Material

Pollution - ILA Teacher Materials

Web Links

[Children's Environmental Education](#)

[EPA-Environmental Education Center](#)

Quick Ideas

Make new paper from recycled paper. See Paper Works on page 32.

Plant an outdoor garden or a class tree. Discuss the many ways trees and plants benefit the environment.

Promote number sense in the classroom by predicting how many pounds of paper your class throws away in a given week. Weigh the paper the class has discarded. Compare this to the predictions made by the class.

Oceans - ILA Teacher Materials

Web Links

[Ocean Animals Coloring Pages](#)

[Ocean Life for Kids!](#)

[Oceans Alive!](#)

Quick Ideas

Estimate how many shells it takes to fill a jar. Record students' estimations and then count the number of shells in the jar.

Set up a small salt-water aquarium in your classroom. Students can learn to care for fish and other salt-water creatures.

Visit a beach and collect seashells. If you do not have access to a beach, purchase seashells. Have students listen to the shells to "hear the ocean." Allow students to examine the shells with their senses. Students can look, feel, and smell. Have students brainstorm categories for the shells.

Weather - ILA Teacher Materials

Web Links

[NOAA-Climate](#)

[National Weather Service](#)

Quick Ideas

Make a thermometer. See Extension Activity on page 31 Hot or Cold?

Create storm murals. Use aluminum foil to make lightning bolts and cotton balls to make clouds. Mount on dark blue construction paper.

Track the weather on a calendar every day for a month. Teach students to identify weather conditions. Use icons to depict different types of weather. At the end of the month, count the number of sunny days, cloudy days, and rainy days.

The Sun - ILA Teacher Materials

Web Links

[The Sun](#)

[NASA for Kids](#)

Quick Ideas

Have students create stories where the setting is either day or night. Read stories aloud and compare and contrast them. Highlight similarities among the day stories and among the night stories. Challenge students to begin to understand how setting influences a story.

Have students choose a place from where they can check the Sun's position at various times during a single day (this works best for weekend homework). Have them draw the position of the Sun during each time check. Did they discover if the Sun moved, or if it just seemed to move because Earth moved? Discuss drawings and discoveries as a class.

Planets - ILA Teacher Materials

Web Links

[Astronomy for Kids](#)

[Planetary Photo Journal](#)

Quick Ideas

Have students create models of the solar system. Styrofoam balls work well for planets and wire and/or pipe cleaners can be used to link the planets together.

Have students create a planet book. All planets and the Sun should be represented. Pictures and words should be used. Provide opportunities for students to share their books with other students. Have book-signing days where students present their books and offer insight into their writing process, the resources they used to write the book, and their own personal feelings about the book.

Constellations - ILA Teacher Materials

Quick Ideas

Have students create Tasty Constellations using black construction paper for the night sky; small white marshmallows for stars; and white chalk for the imaginary lines that connect the stars.

Have students cut out large stars and put their names in the center of the star. Have students write something about themselves on each point of their stars. Stars can be decorated to symbolize each student's personality and everyone can see that all students are stars.

Native Americans - ILA Teacher Materials

Web Links

[PBS-Native Americans](#)

[A Long Time Ago](#)

Quick Ideas

Extend Native American traditions such as the Buffalo Dance. Have students create their own movements based on animals. Students can dance to the beat of a drum.

Discuss the importance of Native American harmony with nature, and take your students on a nature walk. Encourage your students to look for the beauty in nature. Take in the various sights, sounds, and smells. Students can record their sensory observations in their journals.

Early America - ILA Teacher Materials

Web Links

[Colonial Williamsburg](#)

[Early America](#)

[Plimoth Plantation](#)

Quick Ideas

Have students pretend they are visitors from the 1600s. Have them write and speak about their reactions to present day America.

To show the various origins of American citizens, have students bring in various foods that represent their family's nationalities and have a potluck lunch.

Have students write poems about the first Thanksgiving Day celebration. Students can write from the perspective of a Pilgrim and the perspective of a Native American.

America Grows - ILA Teacher Materials

Web Links

[Westward Expansion](#)

[The Oregon Trail](#)

[Lewis and Clark](#)

Plants - ILA Teacher Materials

Web Links

[Mysteries of Plant Life](#)

[Carly's Kids Corner](#)

[Parts of a Plant](#)

[Plant Projects & Printouts](#)

Quick Ideas

Create colorful prints using vegetables. Cut vegetables such as potatoes, broccoli, and carrots. Students can brush paint onto the flat side of the vegetables and then press them onto a sheet of paper to create a print.

Conduct experiments with seeds. Place seeds in two clear cups with soil. Place one cup in a dark closet. Place the other cup in a sunny area. After a few days, have students observe the plants and record their observations.

Biomes - ILA Teacher Materials

Web Links

[Biomes of the World](#)

[Desert Directory](#)

[The World's Biomes](#)

[Biomes](#)

Quick Ideas

Have students create acrostic poems using the name of a biome.

Using one or more of the Here Is books by Madeleine Dunphy (Here Is the Arctic Winter, Here Is the Southwestern Desert, Here Is the Tropical Rain Forest), have students mime the actions of the story as it is being read aloud. This can be done in groups where each student in the group acts out one portion of the narrative.

Farm Animals - ILA Teacher Materials

Web Links

[Farm Animals](#)

[Farm Animal Printouts](#)

[4-H Virtual Farm](#)

[All About Farm Animals](#)

Quick Ideas

Using animal crackers, have students sort and categorize animals. Students can sort according to shape, size, and home environment.

Discuss the differences between animals in a zoo and animals on a farm. Have students write about the differences, draw pictures to represent the differences, and create mobiles to show the differences.

Vertebrates & Invertebrates - ILA Teacher Materials

Web Links

[Vertebrates](#)

[Creature World](#)

[Invertebrates](#)

Mammals - ILA Teacher Materials

Web Links

[Blue Whale](#)

[All About Mammals](#)

[Mammal Facts](#)

[National Zoo](#)

Marine Animals - ILA Teacher Materials

Web Links

[Seahorse Photos](#)

[Secrets of the Ocean Realm](#)

[Ocean Planet](#)

[NOAA Photo Library](#)

[Ocean Animal Printouts](#)

[Sharks](#)

Quick Idea

Have students create posters advertising good human behaviors for keeping marine animals alive. If desired, offer ideas. For example: Keep the beach clean – leave the beach with everything you came with. When swimming or diving, be aware of coral reefs and don't disturb them. Obey fishing laws. Obey boating rules and regulations.

Have students create a puzzle of one of their favorite marine animals. Students should draw a large picture of the animal and cut it into 8 to 10 pieces. In pairs, students can challenge each other with their puzzles.

Seasons - ILA Teacher Materials

Web Links

[Fall Fun](#)

[Winter Fun](#)

[Winter Lessons & Activities](#)

[Spring Fun](#)

[Summer Fun](#)

Quick Ideas

Inspire students to write myths about the four seasons by answering questions similar to the following: Why do leaves fall in autumn? Why does it snow in winter? Why does it rain in spring? Why does the Sun shine so brightly in summer?

This is a project that can be conducted throughout the year. Each morning or during calendar time, have students determine the weather for the day. Using tally marks, keep track of and chart the number of sunny, cloudy, snowy, and rainy days. At the end of each season, the class can count the number of tally marks for each weather category and make inferences about the weather during that season.

Cultural Holidays - ILA Teacher Materials

Web Links

[Happy Kwanzaa](#)

[A Capitol Fourth](#)

[Canada Day](#)

Quick Ideas

Have students bring in a photograph from home of a holiday celebration. Photographs can be used as prompts to write poems and stories.

Have students use a world map to locate the countries referenced in the unit. Students can label the map by drawing symbols representative of holidays specific to those countries.

Safety - ILA Teacher Materials

Web Links

[Kidd Safety](#)

[National Safe Kids Campaign](#)

[First Aid Kit](#)

Quick Ideas

Create a safety-gear class book. Assign each student to one piece of safety gear. Have each student draw a picture of his or her item and write a one-paragraph explanation on why using his or her particular piece of gear is important. Compile all entries to create a book.

Visit a local fire department. Before the visit, have students generate a list of questions they would like to ask the firefighters. Questions can be about the job of a firefighter, the experiences of the firefighters, or general fire safety. Have students write and illustrate a summary of their experience at the fire station. Compile student responses, and send it to the fire department.

Neighborhoods - ILA Teacher Materials

Web Links

[Neighborhood Earth Day](#)

[Kids Next Door](#)

[Your Neighborhood](#)

Quick Ideas

As a class, make a list of jobs that are specific to a city and a list of jobs that are specific to the country. As the list is generated, discuss each job and its importance in its setting.

Have students create a mobile of their neighborhoods. Encourage students to include anything they see in their neighborhood including, but not limited to apartment buildings, houses, stores, buses, cars, taxis, barns, tractors, people, street lights, parks, schools, banks, post offices, fire stations, and police stations.

Jobs in your Neighborhood - ILA Teacher Materials

Web Links

[Whistle While You Work](#)

[Community Workers](#)

[Career Role Models for Girls](#)

[Jobs as a Theme in Literature](#)

[Jobs Coloring Book](#)

Quick Ideas

Create a Career Profile book for the classroom. Have each student focus on and research one career. Then have each student complete a profile sheet for his or her chosen career. Compile all profiles to create a class book. Profile sheets may contain questions similar to the following: What type of training does this job require? Does the job require physical strength? What time of day do people in this job work? Do people in this job wear uniforms? Do people in this job work with others or by themselves?

Travel - ILA Teacher Materials

Web Links

[Otto the Auto](#)

Quick Ideas

Have students experiment creating paper airplanes. Have students predict which plane will fly higher and longer. Measure height and distances. Discuss results.

Have students imagine that they are adventurers jetting off to faraway lands. Students can dramatize archaeological digs in Egypt or oceanic expeditions in the Mediterranean Sea. Encourage students to exercise their imaginations by using unconventional items for props. Allow students to perform their travel skits for classmates.

Values - ILA Teacher Materials

Web Links

[Affective Education](#)

[Aesop's Fables](#)

Quick Ideas

Create a good deed chart for the classroom. Ask students how they would like to keep track of classmates' good deeds. You may provide suggestions, such as tally marks, gold stars, smiley-face stickers, etc. As you witness students performing good deeds in the classroom, mark this on the good deed chart. Students may also inform you of good deeds in the classroom that they witness. At the end of each week, students can count the number of good deeds performed. Celebrate students' efforts. This is a great way to encourage students to be kind and look for the goodness in people.