

FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

In this lesson, students will learn about oyster gardening and come up with a few environmental goals of their own.

Grade Levels 3–6

Note: Lessons are designed to support multiple grade levels.

Standards

Common Core State Standards (CCSS)

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.1
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.3
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.7
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1

Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)

SOCIAL AWARENESS
RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING

Science Standards (NGSS)

Earth and Human Activity

Essential Question(s)

- How do oysters impact the environment?
- What are some ways in which you can impact the environment?

Learning Objectives

- I can list the steps involved in oyster gardening.
- I can explain how oysters benefit the environment.
- I can plan and reach goals that make a positive impact on the environment.

What You'll Need

“Oyster Duty” article from TIME for Kids; “Environmental Honors” worksheet

INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN

Introduce It

Ask students what kind of seafood they eat. Did anyone name oysters? Invite someone to describe what an oyster looks like, inside and out. Show images, if necessary. Then ask students if they know anything else that oysters are useful for. Explain that the article students are about to read focuses on a girl who's involved in oyster gardening. Have students guess why oysters are gardened.

Read About It

Have students read "Oyster Duty." As they do, have them take note of the benefits of oysters.

Discuss It

Bring the class back together and discuss the following:

- How are oysters beneficial to the environment? What's the purpose of oyster gardening?
- Describe the process of oyster gardening, based on the text and images.
- Demi was described in the article as an ambassador and a supporter. Explain why, and add other words to describe her.

Act on It

Have students work with a partner to identify the steps in oyster gardening, based on the text and the accompanying images. Invite students to further research oyster gardening, if they're interested. Is it something that's happening in their area? Can they identify areas in which it has had an impact?

Point out that Demi started oyster gardening as part of a Girl Scouts project. Explain that Girl Scouts participate in service and education projects and earn badges for their work. Pass out copies of "Environmental Honors." Tell students they'll create up to four badges, each based on an environmental goal. These can be anything from picking up 10 pieces of trash to organizing a school garden. Have students share their designs with the class. You can create a wall of badges that students can work toward, especially during Earth Month, in April.