



Conserving Water in the Desert

Lesson 10: Our Changing Climate

Enduring Understanding

The majority of scientific research has demonstrated that human activities have been contributing to global climate change in many different ways.

Essential Question

What are the ways humans have affected the climate and what are some choices individuals can make to slow the rate of global climate change?

Background Information

To see changes that can be made to effect positive changes, visit the Instituto Terra Organization in Brazil website:

<http://www.institutoterra.org/eng/index.php#.VVNzE2adC1k>

After the acreage at this site in Brazil was deforested and overgrazed by the family's cattle ranching, it has been reforested with great effort by the same family. Even though it cannot be returned to its original state, the land has proven very resilient and has become a model of sustainability from which we can all learn.



Lesson Plan

Activity #1: Our Changing Climate

Students will research the information on extreme weather events, glacial and polar cap melt, and droughts worldwide, and record facts and data regarding climate change. They can choose to work individually to write and present a paper about their findings, or work in teams to create a poster or Power Point to present to the whole class.

Have students explain the data researched and pose some ideas about how to slow the changes.

Students who create posters of their findings will also present to the class the ways that individuals can make changes in their choices of lifestyles, purchasing, eating, tree planting, or other ways to slow the trend or global climate warming.

Extension

#1: Partnership with TreeUtah

In partnership with TreeUtah, Red Butte Garden will help to facilitate a school's efforts to plant trees in various areas, especially on your school grounds and along riparian corridors.

There is a TreeUtah School Tree Planting Grant and Grant Application in the Appendices to help schools interested in purchasing and planting trees for their school grounds. You can also access this form online.

For more details on ecological restoration contact TreeUtah directly at their website: www.treeutah.org

