

LESSON: Environmental Heroes

GRADE: 5

OBJECTIVES:

Reading Informational Texts- Key Ideas & Details

- **RI.5.3.** Explain the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text based on specific information in the text.

Integration of Knowledge & Ideas

- **RI.5.7.** Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

MATERIALS & RESOURCES:

- Books about environmental activists, historical figures (see suggested book list on page 3)
- Computer and Internet access, for additional resources, if desired
- Presentation materials (posters, paper, glue, markers, rulers, etc.)

PRESENTATION:

Did you ever wonder where ideas of environmentalism and conservation came from? Were the people who were naturalists and agriculturalists just everyday people or were they scientists? What did these people do to have such an impact on the world that they are part of our history? You will get to know important figures of agricultural, conservation, and environmental history.

DIRECTIONS:

1. In teams, look through some of the books provided about leaders in ecology, conservation, environmentalism, and agriculture.
2. Create a list of names as a group that will be part of your class's environmental hero fair.
3. If there are enough students, have everyone take one name, if not, more than one student may research the same individual.
4. Provide research materials for students pertaining to their environmental hero. Give students ample time to research their hero. Include information such as: Who was this person? Where were they from? What did they do (education, career)? What were they interested in? What was this person known for? How is this person still referenced today (organizations, clubs, books, etc.)?
5. When students have written down all significant information, create a presentation to display each hero. These presentations can be visual, verbal, formal, and informal.
6. Present environmental heroes to the class as small presentations at an environmental hero fair and celebrate the accomplishments of your environmental heroes.

TIME:

90-120 min

BOOK LIST:

Earth Heroes: Champions of the Wilderness by Carol Malnor, Bruce Malnor and Anisa C. Hovemann

Girls Who Looked Under Rocks: The Lives of Six Pioneering Naturalists by Jeannine Atkins

Rachel Carson: Preserving a Sense of Wonder by Joseph Bruchac

Rachel Carson: A Twentieth-Century Life by Ellen Levine

Rachel Carson: Pioneer of Ecology by Kathleen V. Kudlinski

Listening to Crickets: A Story about Rachel Carson by Candice F. Ransom and Shelly O. Haas

George Washington Carver by Tonya Bolden

George Washington Carver: From Slave to Scientist by Geoff Bengé and Janet Bengé

George Washington Carver: The Life of the Great American Agriculturist by Linda McMurry Edwards and Roscoe Orman

A Pocketful of Goobers: A Story about George Washington Carver by Barbara Mitchell and Peter E. Hanson

George Washington Carver: The Peanut Wizard by Laura Driscoll

George Washington Carver: An Innovative Life by Elizabeth MacLeod

John Muir: My Life With Nature by John Muir, Joseph Cornell, Elizabeth Ann Kelley and Christopher Canyon

John Muir: America's Naturalist by Thomas Locker

John Muir: Young Naturalist by Montrew Dunham

Aldo Leopold's Shack: Nina's Story by Nancy Nye Hunt

Aldo Leopold: Champion of Conservation by Carole Marsh

Aldo Leopold: American Ecologist by Peter Anderson

Things Natural, Wild, and Free: The Life of Aldo Leopold by Marybeth Lorbiecki