

3rd
Grade

3rd Grade Math Earth Day Alien Rescue Escape Room

Virtual Field Trip: Recycling Facility for Earth Day

EARTH DAY PBL

Organize a Debate!

3rd – 5th
Grades

Save the Planet

Reasons Support Points Escape Room

2nd – 3rd
Grade

Print and Digital

Earn Your Stamps!

Directions: Click on the icons to collect. When you have collected all the icons, there will be stamps to collect.

Recycle Plan



MagiCORE



MagiCORE



Cut and paste the globe and place it in your environmental scrapbook. Continue to your next station.



Save the Planet

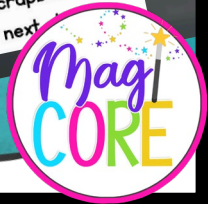
Reasons Support Points Escape Room

2nd _ 3rd
Grade

Print and Digital



Cut and paste the globe and place it
in your environmental scrapbook.
Then, continue to your next



Print & Digital Options

Printable Directions



Materials:

- Printed cards for each team
- Computer or tablet for videos (optional)

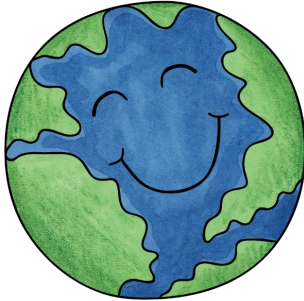
Duration: Approximately 90 minutes. You can also split this up into four 20- to 30-minute activities over four days, having students complete one challenge per day.

Prep

Print challenge cards and recording sheet for each team. Place challenge cards into envelopes.

Directions

1. Split your class into teams of 4-5 students. Ensure teams are multi-level.
2. (Optional) Show the introduction video.
3. Give each team their envelope for challenge #1.
4. Allow time for each team to work through each challenge. Once they solve the challenge, record answers in their brochure. Then, turn the code in to the teacher to check before assigning the consecutive challenge. (Optional) Teacher may show completion videos after solved. Students can scan the video using the provided QR codes.
5. The first team to complete all four challenges wins the save the planet challenge.
6. Assign "oops" cards to help create equity. Give an "oops" card to students who are encourage them to step back and give other students a turn.



Digital Instructions

Click on the **BLUE** recycle symbol to access the Google Slides version of this resource.



Click on the **PINK** recycle symbol to access the Planet Saver Decoder to use in Google Sheets.



Click on the **GREEN** recycle symbol to watch a video to see how to use the digital version of this resource.



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Videos Tell the Story



Four Reasoning Skills Challenges

Challenge #3



Read the passages and answer the questions to collect the recycling bin and keep plastic out of the landfills.

©Julie Baker

Challenges Assess Various Skills

Challenges



1. Identify the author's main point to explore the change in Earth's oceans and collect the globe.
2. Identify the evidence that supports the author's main point to help replenish the rainforest by planting a tree.
3. Use text evidence to support the author's main point to collect the recycling bin and keep plastic out of the landfills.
4. Read a multi-paragraph text to practice how reasons support an author's point. Collect the conservation badge to help protect your favorite animal species.

Short Passages

1.

Reasons Support Points

Being car-free is for those who would like to see cars used less in cities. This movement is backed by those who would like to see different ways of moving people. This is important for the environment. It is also important for our quality of life. People who want to be car-free encourage walking, cycling, or the use of public transportation. This is a movement we can all easily do. If we all let go of just one car ride a week, we could decrease air pollutants from vehicles. So, next time you need a ride, grab your bike!



What is the author's main point?

- a. Everyone should be car-free.
- b. The car-free movement helps with air pollution.
- c. Vehicles, bikes, and buses all add to air pollution.
- d. Being car-free is the best way to help the environment.

Long Passages

Reasons Support Points

Climate change is the difference in the Earth's climate over time. The change can be warmer (global warming) or colder (global cooling). These changes can be caused by activity inside the Earth or human activity. These changes may take tens, hundreds, or perhaps millions of years. Earth is currently experiencing a climate change crisis. It will cripple some of its most important living species.

Earth's ocean animals have experienced change due to global warming. Heat waves in the ocean are more frequent, due to climate change. Plants and animals in the ocean have been forced to migrate towards the colder poles. This has had harmful effects on corals, kelp, and seabirds. Harmful algae bloom has increased due to climate change. This algae has disrupted food webs. Coastal ecosystems are also under stress. Almost half of Earth's wetlands have disappeared. This is an effect of climate change and other human impacts.



©Julie Bochesse

Google Slides Prompt Students to use Decoder



Conservation Badge

Enter your answers in the Secret Decoder to collect your badge and discover which ocean animal is most at risk from climate change.



DO NOT go to the next page until prompted to do so by the Decoder!

© Julie Becker

Decoder in Digital Version is Self-Checking

Planet Saver Decoding Tool

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Add-ons Help Last edit was seconds ago

75% 75% 123 Verdana 16 B I A

C3:H3 b

Question #	1	2	3	4	5	6
Your Answers	b	a	c	d	a	b

What ocean animal is most at risk from climate change?

The Earth's green sea turtle species.

YOU COLLECTED THE BADGE!! MOVE ON TO THE NEXT SLIDE.



+ - Collect the Globe - Challenge 2 - Plant a Tree - Challenge 3 - Collect the Recycle Bin - Challenge 4 - Collect Your Badge -

Interactive Elements

Cut and paste the conservation badge and place it in your environmental scrapbook. Then, continue to your next challenge.



Printable Version Includes "Ooops!" Challenges

Ooops!

You are caught in the rain!



NO HELPING YOUR
TEAM FOR 3 MINUTES!

Ooops!

You forgot to turn off the electricity
when you were done using it.



NO USING YOUR EYES FOR 5
MINUTES!

Printable Version

Includes Recording

Brochure & Decoder

CHALLENGE 1



	Answer	Code
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		

How can we slow the effects of climate change?

CHALLENGE 2

	Answer	Code
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		

Who relies on the Amazon Rainforest?



CHALLENGE 3



	Answer	Code
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		

What can you do to reduce your use of plastics?

Secret Decoder

following codes for each challenge to unlock the secret item and move to the next challenge.

	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3	Question 4	Question 5	Question 6
Challenge 1	a = There b = We c = The d = On	a = must b = it c = should d = can	a = shovel b = help c = ride d = garden	a = the b = empty c = our d = recycle	a = bikes b = of c = planet d = landfill	a = always b = more c = plastic d = helpful
Challenge 2	a = Only b = The c = All d = On	a = biggest b = living c = endangered d = the	a = species b = habitats c = plants d = animals	a = a b = of c = on d = with	a = the b = planet c = tree d = our	a = Earth b = helped c = planet d = rainforest
Challenge 3	a = Help b = Begin c = Recycle d = Start	a = helping b = being c = using d = loving	a = the b = a c = your d = our	a = reusable b = recyclable c = plastic d = metal	a = air b = trash c = bottle d = water	a = can b = bottle c = heart d = landfill
Challenge 4	a = Earth's b = The c = A d = Our	a = Earth's b = planet c = Pacific d = blue	a = whale b = coral c = green d = ocean	a = of b = algae c = spores d = sea	a = turtle b = deep c = shark d = of	a = planet b = species c = sea d = endangered

Virtual Field Trip:

Recycling Facility for Earth Day



STEAM

Create Your Own Recycled

Click and drag the pictures to create a piece of recycled art.



Integrates Reading

Let's Explore!: What Is Recy

Recycling is the process of taking items that could go in the trash and co other things. Not every item we use can be recycled when we are finished with certain types of plastic, and metal can all be recycled. The process for recyclin items by type. For example, all glass items go together. After the items are so down into their basic form, cleaned, and turned into something new. For exam paper is recycled, it is washed to remove the ink and glue. The next step is to take the wet, mushy paper and put it in a larger mixer with water. The wet paper is called slurry. Slurry is mixed with other materials to make different paper products. The slurry is set on rollers to dry. Then the new dried paper is rolled and cut for use.

What is slurry?



Click
more

Call to Action!

The 3R's: Reduce, Reuse And Recycle

Directions: Read the fast facts about the 3R's. Click and drag the icons to label statements as true or false.

Reduce:

- Don't use it unless you need it! This helps eliminate waste.
- Try to use items that are made from recycled materials.

Reuse:

- Look to repurpose any items that are still useable for something else. For example, shred used paper to make a nest for small pets like hamsters.

Recycle:

- If an item can be broken down and changed into a new item, put it in the recycle bin.
- Items like plastic, glass, paper, and metal are recyclable.

- It is not wasteful to use a small part of a piece and then throw it away.
- I can put anything in the recycle bin. All items are recyclable.
- Paper can be shredded and used as bedding for pets like hamsters.
- Plastic, glass and metal are recyclable.

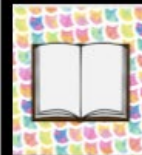
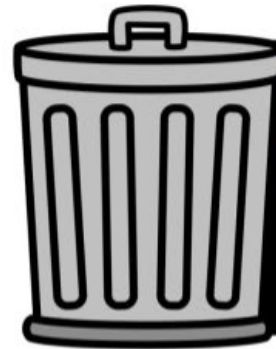
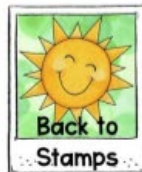
Fast Facts



Engaging & Educational Media

Sort-It!

Directions: Watch the video below and sort the items as recycle



Critical Thinking Skills

Recycle Vs. Landfill

Complete the graphic organizer by listing the main differences between recycling and using a landfill.



Share the Differences

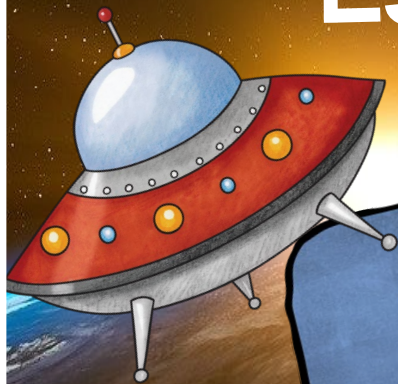
Recycling

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3rd Grade Math

Earth Day Alien Rescue

Escape Room



Greetings, Earthlings!

My comrades and I have traveled from far, far away in our spaceship to help your planet. We hear you haven't been taking care of it properly! But now, four of my crew have gotten stuck in your planet's pollution.

Can you help my fellow aliens escape the pollution?

Crew members to help:

1. Commander Glibnar
2. Petty Officer Globnix
3. Lieutenant Ipsix
4. Exploration Officer Fibrar

After each challenge, put the alien back in the spaceship!

Print & Digital



Print & Digital Options

Printable Directions

Materials:

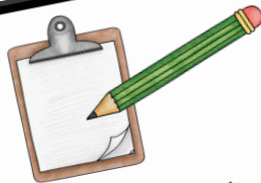
- Printed cards for each team
- Computer or Tablet for Videos (optional)
- Scrap Paper (optional)

Duration: Approximately 90 minutes. You can also split activities over four days, having students complete one day's worth of activities each day.

Prep: Print challenge cards and recording sheets for each team.

Directions:

1. Split your class into teams of 4-5 students. Each team will have a designated leader.
2. (Optional) Show the introduction video.
3. Give each team their envelope for challenge cards.
4. Allow time for each team to work through the challenge cards. The teacher should turn the code in to the teacher to check the challenge. (Optional) Teacher may show challenge cards to the class.
5. The first team to complete all four challenge cards will receive certificates.
6. Assign "oops" cards to help create a fun atmosphere, to encourage them to step back and try again.



30-minute

CHALLENGE #1



1. Solve the addition and subtraction problems.

2. If you solve all the problems correctly, you will receive a certificate.

I'm Ready!

3. Put Commander Glibnar back in his spaceship and move on to the next challenge.



Print Friendly Version

Challenge #1

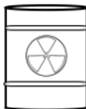


1. Solve each addition or subtraction problem.
2. Record answers on your brochure.
3. Check your answers in the Alien Rescue Decoder.
4. Put Commander Glibnar in the spaceship.
5. Scan
6. Move

2. The highest smokestack in Smog City is 902 feet high. The shortest smokestack is 289 feet high. How much taller is the highest smokestack than the shortest?

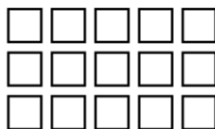
- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| a. 713 feet | c. 607 feet |
| b. 613 feet | d. 719 feet |

Challenge #3



1. Solve each multiplication problem.
2. Record answers on your brochure.
3. Check your answers in the Alien Rescue Decoder.
4. Put Lieutenant Ipsix in the spaceship.
5. Scan the QR code in the corner of the next page.
6. Move on to challenge #4.

1. Lieutenant Ipsix finds a box of Geiger counters on the spaceship. A Geiger counter is a handheld device that measures radiation. The counters are arranged into an array as shown below. Which multiplication equation represents the array?



- a. 3×5
- b. 5×5
- c. 3×3
- d. 15×15

2. Lieutenant Ipsix takes his Geiger counter to a nuclear plant. On the ground, there are 3 clusters of manhole covers that lead to underground tunnels. Each cluster has the same number of manhole covers. There are 27 manhole covers in all. How many manholes are in each cluster?

- a. 8 manhole covers
- b. 7 manhole covers
- c. 9 manhole covers
- d. 11 manhole covers

3. Inside one of the tunnels, Lieutenant Ipsix finds a stash of nuclear waste barrels. The barrels are arranged into four stacks. Each stack has five barrels. How many barrels are there in all?

- a. 9 barrels
- b. 20 barrels
- c. 16 barrels
- d. 15 barrels

Digital Webscape™ & Google Slides



Challenge #1

Click on each clue and answer the questions. Answer carefully, because the right answers will give you the clues to solve the challenge!

Where was Commander Glibnar hiding?



Clue #1



Clue #2



Clue #3



Clue #4



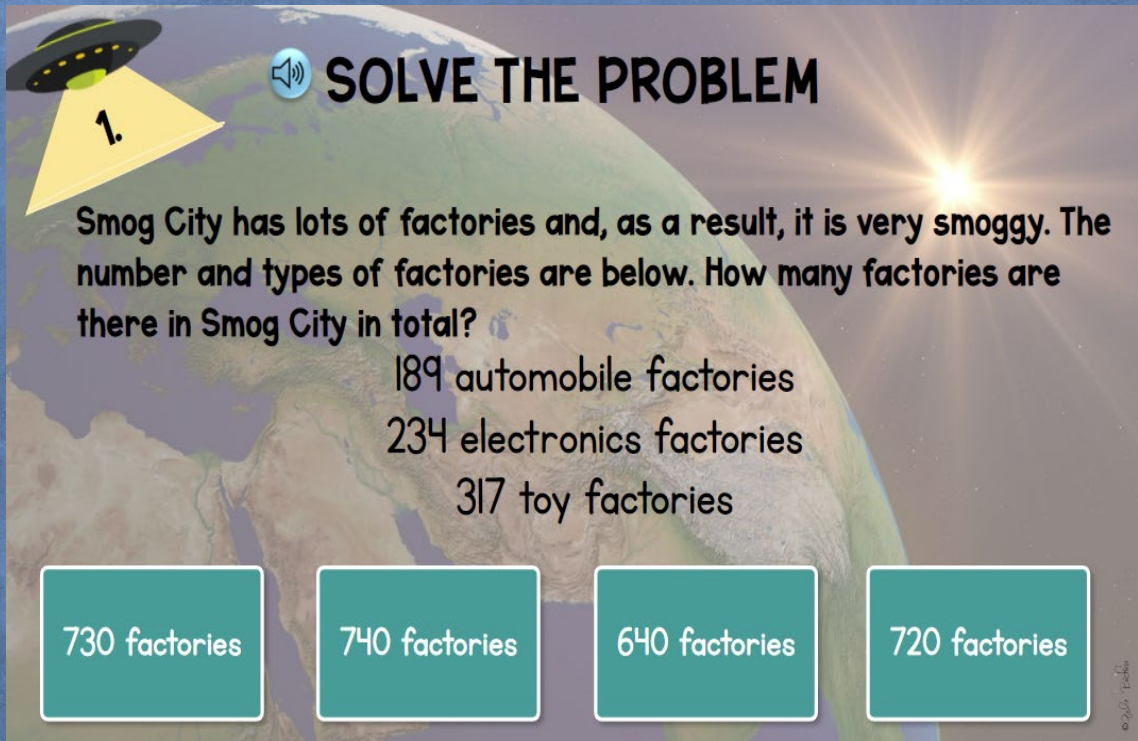
Clue #5



Clue #6

Submit

Webscape™ is Interactive & Self-Correcting!



The interface is set against a background of a stylized Earth with a bright sun in the upper right. A yellow cone with the number '1.' is on the left, and a speaker icon is next to the title. The problem text is in the center, followed by a list of factory types and counts. At the bottom, there are four teal buttons with white text representing possible answers.

1. **SOLVE THE PROBLEM**

Smog City has lots of factories and, as a result, it is very smoggy. The number and types of factories are below. How many factories are there in Smog City in total?

- 189 automobile factories
- 234 electronics factories
- 317 toy factories

730 factories 740 factories 640 factories 720 factories

Webscape™ Includes Audio Option!



Videos Tell the Story



4 Standards- Based Math Challenges

EARTH DAY ALIEN RESCUE

1. Challenge #1: Solve the addition and subtraction problems to save Commander Glibnar.

2. Challenge #2: Solve the place value problems to help Petty Officer Globnix.

3. Challenge #3: Solve the multiplication problems to evacuate Lieutenant Ipsix.

4. Challenge #4: Solve the geometry problems to rescue Exploration Officer Fiblar.

SOLVE THE PROBLEM

Commander Glibnar is counting down from 1000 to 0 to see if he can get to the "Earthquake" strategy to help him. This is what he did to help the number.

1000 ones = 200 tens = 20 hundreds = 2 thousands = 10,000

1000 - 100 = 900 900 - 10 = 890 890 - 1 = 889

What kind of operation does Commander Glibnar's strategy use?

a. 1000 - 200 = 800 and 800 - 10 = 790 and 790 - 1 = 789
 b. 1000 - 100 = 900 and 900 - 10 = 890 and 890 - 1 = 889
 c. 1000 - 100 = 900 and 900 - 10 = 890 and 890 - 1 = 889
 d. 1000 - 100 = 900 and 900 - 10 = 890 and 890 - 1 = 889

SOLVE THE PROBLEM

Bones are long, thin bones that can be used to make things. There are four bones in each hand. What would be the total length of four bones?

Bones	Length
1	2 in.
2	3 in.
3	4 in.
4	5 in.

a. Bones 1 and 2
 b. Bones 3 and 4
 c. Bones 1 and 3
 d. Bones 2 and 4

SOLVE THE PROBLEM

Lieutenant Ipsix has a box of 100 bones in the shape of a square. The bones are arranged in a 10 by 10 grid. Which multiplication equation represents the area?

a. 10×10
 b. 10×1
 c. 1×10
 d. 10×10

SOLVE THE PROBLEM

Officer Fiblar is divided as one of the bones of one of the bones. The bones are arranged in a 10 by 10 grid. The bones are arranged in a 10 by 10 grid. What is the missing dimension of the bones?

a. 10 feet
 b. 10 feet
 c. 10 feet
 d. 10 feet

Challenges are Quick

Challenge #1



1. Solve each addition or subtraction problem.
2. Record answers on your brochure.
3. Check your answers in the Alien Rescue Decoder.
4. Put Commander Glibnar in the spaceship.
5. Scan the QR code in the corner of the next page.
6. Move on to challenge #2.

1. Smog City has lots of factories and, as a result, it is very smoggy. The number and types of factories are below. How many factories are there in Smog City in total?

189 automobile factories
234 electronics factories
317 toy factories

- a. 730 factories
- b. 740 factories
- c. 640 factories
- d. 720 factories

2. The highest smokestack in Smog City is 902 feet high. The shortest smokestack is 289 feet high. How much taller is the highest smokestack than the shortest?

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| a. 713 feet | c. 607 feet |
| b. 613 feet | d. 719 feet |

3. None of the residents of Smog City walk, bike, or take public transportation. They all drive their own cars everywhere! Commander Glibnar sees 456 cars go by in one hour. In the next hour, he sees 387 more cars go by. How many cars have passed Commander Glibnar?

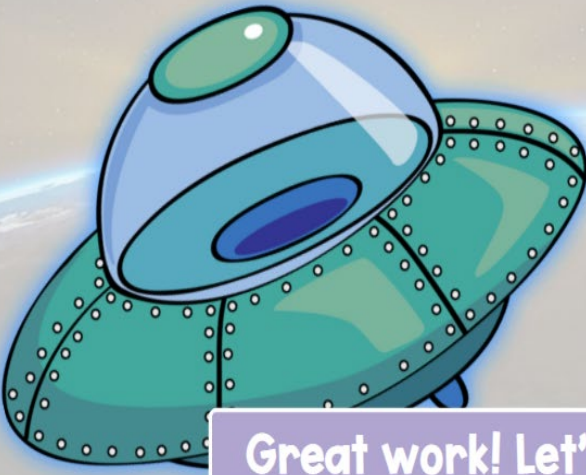
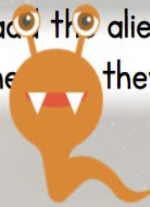
- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| a. 833 cars | c. 733 cars |
| b. 743 cars | d. 843 cars |

4. Commander Glibnar tries using his Air Purifying Laser to clean the air in Smog City. He runs it for 249 minutes, but the air is as smoggy as ever! He recharges it and runs it for 485 minutes more. For how many minutes did he use the laser?

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| a. 624 minutes | c. 724 minutes |
| b. 634 minutes | d. 734 minutes |

Interactive

Collect each alien. After each challenge, add the alien into the spaceship.
Once all the aliens are safely back on the spaceship, they can return home!



Click the spaceship
to collect your alien!

Great work! Let's keep going!

Variety of Skills



SOLVE THE PROBLEM

A bunch of volunteers have come to the beach to help clean up the oil spill. 64 volunteers are wading in the water and 28 are standing on the sand. How many volunteers are there in total when rounded to the nearest ten?

100

80

92

90

Google Slides Prompt Students to use Decoder



CAN YOU RESCUE PETTY OFFICER GLOBNIX?

Enter your answers into the decoder to see if you can
clean the oil off Officer Globnix.



DO NOT go to the next page until prompted to do so
by the decoder!

©2016 Fisher

Decoder in Digital Version is Self-Checking

The screenshot shows a Google Sheet titled "Earth Day Math Alien Rescue Escape Room Decoding Tool" with a last edit date of March 16 by Patrick Mateo. The interface is designed for a self-checking decoder. It features a table with columns for "Question #" and "Your Answers" for questions 1 through 6. A dropdown menu is open for question 1, showing options A, B, C, and D. The question text "Where was Commander Glibnar hiding?" is visible. A yellow banner at the bottom of the sheet reads "KEEP LOOKING! DO NOT MOVE ON TO THE NEXT SLIDE." The bottom of the sheet contains a navigation bar with links to "Challenge 1 - Save Commander Glibnar!", "Challenge 2 - Help Petty Officer Globnxi!", "Challenge 3 - Evacuate Lieutenant Ipsix!", and "Challenge 4 - Rescue Exploration Officer Fiblar!".

Question #	1	2	3	4	5	6
Your Answers						

Where was Commander Glibnar hiding?

KEEP LOOKING! DO NOT MOVE ON TO THE NEXT SLIDE.

Challenge 1 - Save Commander Glibnar! | Challenge 2 - Help Petty Officer Globnxi! | Challenge 3 - Evacuate Lieutenant Ipsix! | Challenge 4 - Rescue Exploration Officer Fiblar!

Printable Version

Includes "Ooops!"

Challenges



Printable Version

Includes Recording

Brochure & Decoder

 **Alien Rescue Decoder** 

Use the following codes for each challenge to solve the clues and move to the next challenge.

Challenge 1	question 1	question 2	question 3	question 4	question 5	question 6
a = We were b = He was c = He had d = There was	a = going b = hiding c = into d = called	a = near b = because c = among d = underneath	a = when the b = smokesack c = pollution d = a pile	a = of old b = to his c = when the d = since	a = factory b = spaceship c = times d = window	

Challenge 2	question 1	question 2	question 3	question 4	question 5	question 6
a = He was b = With a c = First you d = Not until	a = water b = cleaning c = him d = toothbrush	a = dish soap b = volunteer c = oil spill d = walks	a = because b = and c = washing d = but then	a = a little b = sometimes c = lots of d = he goes	a = all for b = on it c = bar d = at	

Challenge 3	question 1	question 2	question 3	question 4	question 5
a = Beam b = Send c = Take him d = Before you	a = waste barrel b = in the c = him d = tunnel	a = take b = up c = because d = until	a = underground b = radioactive c = chasing d = into	a = the b = out c = help him d = running	

Challenge 4	question 1	question 2	question 3	question 4	question 5
a = Take him b = Quickly c = Throw him d = The water	a = cold b = icy c = a pool float d = polar bear	a = until b = rectangle c = because I d = so he	a = afterwards b = can c = float d = breaks apart	a = tower b = first c = on it d = at	

CHALLENGE 1 

	Answer	Code
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		

CHALLENGE 2

	Answer	Code
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		

How can you clean all the oil off Petty Officer Globnix?

Where was Commander Glibnar hiding?



CHALLENGE 3 

	Answer	Code
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		

How can you help Lieutenant Ipsix escape from the nuclear plant?

EARTH DAY PBL

Organize a Debate!

3rd — 5th Grades
Print & Digital

Reading & Social Studies



Print & Digital Versions

BIG BAD PLASTIC

Plastic bags and to-go containers are convenient. They allow busy humans to carry things easily. If we don't limit our use of these handy products, however, our oceans will be in trouble. They could have more plastic in them than fish by the year 2050.

We produce about 300 million tons of plastic waste each year. About 8 million tons of that plastic ends up in the world's oceans annually. We may only use these plastic products briefly, then throw them away. Plastic waste can survive in the environment for centuries, though. In fact, it breaks down into deadly plastic microbeads. This makes plastic a huge problem for the health of our planet and all who live on it.

Over 40% of all seabirds have eaten plastic. Guess what? So have you. In just a week's time, it's possible that you've eaten about 5 grams of plastic. That is about the size of a credit card. How does this happen? A fish swimming in the ocean is exposed to plastic waste that has traveled from land to rivers to the ocean. That fish is caught and sold in a supermarket. You buy and eat that fish. The toxins in the plastic the fish has eaten pass from the fish to you. These toxins have been linked to causing diseases such as cancer.

Plastic kills about one million seabirds each year. One hundred thousand marine animals get tangled up with plastic waste and die. Land animals suffer from plastic pollution just as much. All of these creatures need to be protected from plastic that humans create and throw away. If we don't become more responsible with how we handle plastic, the number of animals and humans affected will only rise.

People need to do everything they can to reduce the amount of plastic that is produced. One of the best things to do is to refuse plastic as much as possible. Saying no to plastic products means they don't have to be made in the first place. They won't end up becoming pollution if they are never created. Recycling plastic can be made into other products. This gives the plastic a new life, but it's still plastic. Recycling plastic containers are yet another option. They might not be as convenient,

Any way you look at it, plastic is a problem. It causes pollution and is being such a villain. People just have to care enough to take action.



EXAMPLE ARGUMENT

in support of plastic use

TOPIC:

The use of plastic

STANCE (PRO/CON/OTHER):

PRO: in support of the use of plastic

MAIN IDEA:

The use of plastic is positive in many ways because it can improve people's quality of life and help protect them. The use of plastic also has saved specific species of animals.

TALKING POINTS:

talking point #1:

Plastic is better than the alternative.

specific evidence to support talking point #1:

- Prior to the creation of plastic, natural materials such as elephant tusks were used to produce common objects.
- Plastic has saved many elephants.

OPPOSING VIEWS:

opposing view #1:

Plastic harms a lot of animals.



Original Video To Model a Debate

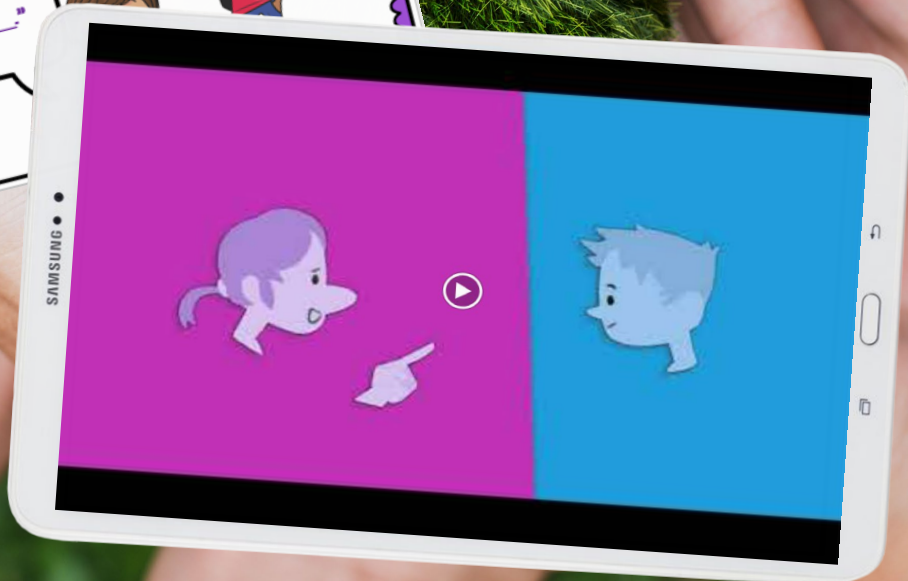
SENTENCE STARTERS

to use when delivering talking points

"I am suggesting
that _____
because _____."

"In my research, I
found that _____."

"The next
thing I would
like to discuss
is _____."



Multiple Passages for Students to Integrate Information from Multiple Texts

THE RIGHT TOOL

Climate change is on everyone's mind. Storms have grown fiercer. Temperatures have become more extreme. Ocean levels have risen. We've been warned that we need to take steps to reduce greenhouse gases in the air if we have any chance of fighting global warming. Living a greener life is a way to help. Does that mean we need to get rid of convenience?

One thing that makes our lives easier is using paper towels. They help us clean messes quickly. We've been encouraged, however, to stop using this product. It's been accused of being harmful to the environment. Other options have been presented, but they aren't better.

Take cloth towels and napkins, for example. They can be cleaned and reused. The energy and resources needed to wash them is a problem, though. Hot water, electricity, and detergent all cost money and have their own negative effects. Also, some microfiber cloths are made from petroleum-based polymers. Each time you wash these cloths, microplastics that never break down are released. They make their way into our water and pollute it. Paper towels, on the other hand, break down in 2-6 weeks in landfills, and they do not add microplastics to our water.

Another difficulty with using cloth towels is they are exposed to wet, humid conditions. They also absorb unpleasant substances when they are used to wipe up messes. This creates a breeding ground for nasty bacteria and mold. Without proper disinfecting, you could spread that bacteria and mold every time you swipe that dirty cloth along a surface. Sponges create the same problems. Illness could be caused by using infected cloths and sponges instead of paper towels.

Sometimes paper towels are just the right tool for the job. When it comes to cleaning up substances such as grease and oil, a paper towel is the way to go. A cloth towel would only become stained and have to be thrown away. It would take longer than a paper towel to break down in a landfill, too.

Paper towels aren't so horrible. They make our lives easier and more sanitary. There are worse causes of global warming and climate change than cleaning up spills with handy and germ-free paper towels. We need to focus our energy on solving the bigger problems.

Unfortunately, recycling paper towels isn't an option because they can't be cleaned.

Paper towels can be composted, but not if they are bleached or too soiled. In addition, paper towels aren't just made of wood pulp. They have chemicals, such as dyes, in them to make them white and sturdy. These chemicals are harmful to humans and the environment over time.

The good news is that we don't have to use paper towels. We have other choices that are healthier for the planet and humans. Cloth towels are cheap and convenient. They can be used, washed, and reused. Natural sea sponges are another possibility. One of these sponges can replace about 3,000 paper towel sheets! If you simply must use paper towels, try using ones that are unbleached or made from recycled paper. At the very least, make an effort to use fewer paper towels overall.

With fewer cows. That means less methane, another greenhouse gas, is being produced.

Improvements in breeding and nutrition make this possible.

Studies show avoiding meat altogether isn't the answer. Moving to other kinds of diets may do more harm than good. Cattle, sheep, and goat meat make greenhouse gas, but so do dairy products. Any major changes in how we eat could also keep our bodies from getting what they need to stay as healthy as possible. This could cause illnesses.

A better idea would be to decrease the amount of red meat we eat, but not quit it completely. You don't have to stop being a carnivore to save the planet.

Global warming is happening. Making just one hamburger causes more greenhouse gas than foods such as apples, bananas, and carrots. To stop eating meat is one way to help.

Raising animals such as cows and pigs causes more greenhouse gas than growing crops. Large pieces of cleared land are used to grow crops. About 260 million acres of land are cleared each year. The loss of trees is becoming endangered or the air. More carbon dioxide is being released into the air. These animals also produce methane, a greenhouse gas.

Producing wheat, corn, and soybeans also causes more greenhouse gas than growing crops. Large pieces of cleared land are used to grow crops. About 260 million acres of land are cleared each year. The loss of trees is becoming endangered or the air. More carbon dioxide is being released into the air. These animals also produce methane, a greenhouse gas.

More and more people are eating meat. Glaciers are melting. The atmosphere is causing global warming. We need to stop eating meat, but it's not easy.

There are bigger problems. Transportation causes 27% of greenhouse gas. It's caused by making energy. Growing pigs to eat, however, is only one of the problems. You'd be better off eating steak dinner.

In the past, beef production is friendlier to the environment. It uses less land and water to make one pound of beef than it does to make one pound of pork.

Does this mean we should eat more beef? Not necessarily. Beef production is still a problem. It uses a lot of land and water. It also produces a lot of greenhouse gas. We need to find a way to reduce our meat consumption.

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It's a hot day. You're incredibly thirsty. You can't drink it, however, you accidentally spill a glass of water. You need a towel to clean up the mess. When you use a paper towel, you're helping the environment.

But do they really go away? Paper towels are a big convenience. They help us clean messes quickly. We've been encouraged, however, to stop using this product. It's been accused of being harmful to the environment. Other options have been presented, but they aren't better.

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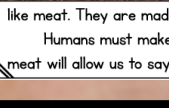
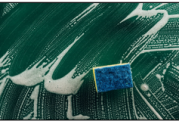
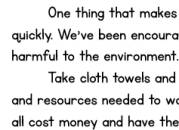
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Graphic Organizers

RESEARCH ORGANIZER

name: _____ date: _____

Topic: _____

Benefits or positive effects of this specific topic: _____

Disadvantages or negative effects of this specific topic: _____

from reliable sources. Gather evidence, not opinions.

EXAMPLE ARGUMENT
opposed to the use of plastic

TOPIC: _____

The use of plastic

MAIN IDEA: _____

The use of plastic is harmful to the environment, animals, and humans. In order to decrease the production of plastic, we need to refuse to use it.

TALKING POINTS:

specific evidence to support talking point #1:

- 8 million tons of plastic end up in oceans every single year.
- Plastic survives in the environment for hundreds of years and doesn't decompose.

OPPOSING VIEWS:

opposing view #1: _____

