



Green Habits, Brighter Future March 2025 Lesson Plan: Elementary

Theme: Going Green (St. Patrick's Day & Beginning of Spring)

Grade Levels: Elementary

Duration: Approximately 55-65 minutes + Extension Activities

Objective: Students will learn the principles of "going green," including energy conservation, waste reduction, and sustainable living practices. They will analyze their daily habits and identify small, actionable changes to live more sustainably.

Materials Needed:

- Printed *How Green Am I?* worksheets
 - Markers, crayons, or colored pencils for drawing
 - Recycling bins, compost materials (if applicable)
 - Camera or phone to take before-and-after photos
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Lesson Outline

1. Introduction (10-15 min)

- Begin with a class discussion: "What does it mean to go green?"
- Show pictures or real-life examples of sustainable practices (recycling, composting, reusing items, etc.).
- Discuss why taking care of the environment is important and how small changes make a big impact.

2. Main Lesson (20-25 min)

- Energy Conservation: Talk about turning off lights, using less water, and conserving electricity.
- Waste Reduction: Discuss reducing single-use plastics, reusing items, and composting food scraps.
- Sustainable Living: Introduce concepts like using reusable water bottles, bringing lunch in reusable containers, and making eco-friendly transportation choices.
- Activity: Read a short story or watch a video about a character who learns how to "go green." Example: [How to Take Care of the Environment](#) by Fun World for Kids



3. Group Activity: Green Habit Check-In (15 min)

- Give each student a worksheet titled *How Green Am I?*
- After completing the worksheet, write a reflection on the board (to be completed on a separate piece of paper).
 - “One new green habit I will start this month is...”
 - Younger students can illustrate their “green” commitment.
- Students complete the worksheet and share one thing they can do to be greener.

4. Eco-Challenge: Classroom Green Makeover (Ongoing Project)

- Each class commits to making their space more sustainable by:
 - Starting a recycling station
 - Creating a compost bin
 - Introducing reusable classroom supplies (like cloth rags instead of paper towels)
- Take “before” pictures of the classroom setup.
- Over the next few weeks, implement the changes.
- At the end of the month, take “after” pictures and reflect on the impact of the changes.
Email photos to cjones@planetaid.org for a chance to win a Science Club Garbage to Gardens Compost Kit & Decomposition Book for the classroom! (Deadline: March 31, 2025)
- Older students can write a short paragraph about what they learned from the makeover.

5. Wrap-Up & Reflection (10 min)

- Ask students to share their favorite green tip from the lesson.
- Have a class pledge: “One small action can make a big difference! I pledge to [student’s commitment] to help the Earth.”
- Optional: Make a classroom poster with students’ green commitments.

Extension Activities:

- Green Art Project: Use recycled materials to create artwork or decorations.
- Eco-Story Time: Read books about sustainability (e.g., *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss, *One Plastic Bag* by Miranda Paul).
- Nature Walk: Go outside and identify signs of spring and discuss how nature changes with the seasons.

By the end of this lesson, students will better understand the importance of going green and take steps to make their environment more sustainable!

