

“Kids Can Save the Planet” movies available

Dylan D’Haeze was just like any other Washington state 13-year-old when he noticed all of the plastic trash on the California beaches during family vacation. He asked himself a question, “**What happens when we throw plastic away?**”

He did a bit of research and found some scary facts. But instead of just being frightened, he took that fear and redirected it toward educating other kids and challenging them to do something about it. That was the beginning of the “Kids Can Save the Planet” documentary series. Follow Dylan on his journey as he films, directs, and narrates three award-winning movies about plastic pollution from a kid’s perspective.



The Skagit County Solid Waste Division has purchased these movies and will share them at no cost with schools across the county. Teachers and schools can share one film or host a family movie night and watch all three. Ask your teacher or principal to contact Callie Martin at 360-416-1575 or calliem@co.skagit.wa.us for details. For more information and to view clips of the films, visit <http://kidscansavetheplanet.com>.

Saying “no, thanks” to single-use plastics

We have beautiful shorelines and beaches in Skagit County. Sadly, a lot of plastics — especially single-use plastics, like bottles, bottle caps, straws, and bags — end up littering those beaches. That litter becomes “marine debris” when it gets into our bays and ocean. Marine animals sometimes eat or get tangled in the plastic litter.

The Skagit Plastic Reduction and Recycling Coalition (SPRRC), a joint project of Friends of Skagit Beaches and the Skagit County Solid Waste Division, is reaching out to people in Skagit County and asking them to reduce their use of single-use plastics. For example, carrying a reusable grocery bag or refillable water bottle means you can say “no, thanks” to a

plastic bag or bottle. That’s less single-use plastic that can become trash or litter. In addition, the SPRRC is reminding residents to keep non-recyclable plastics OUT of their recycling bins. The only plastics that should go into your recycling bin are bottles and jugs without caps and lids. Bottles and jugs have a neck that is smaller than the base, like a sports drink bottle or a laundry jug. That makes plastic recycling easy!

The SPRRC has been at local Farmers Markets to talk to residents about reducing single-use plastics and properly recycling bottles and jugs. Do you want to learn more about what they are teaching people? Visit their booth on Saturday, September 14, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., at the Anacortes Farmers Market. You’ll

find great tips on using less plastic in your daily life. When you and your family sign our Plastics Reduction Pledge, we’ll send you home with a reusable bag of your choice and a mesh produce bag so you can start reducing single-use plastics that very day!

Zero waste schools

The Skagit County Solid Waste Division offers the Zero Waste Schools Program to all schools in our county. This program includes presentations to classrooms and school staff to help increase recycling and start composting food scraps in the cafeteria. During the presentations, we bring along waste-free lunch kits so you can see how to create your own at home. Three schools in Skagit County currently take part and are keeping more than 90 pounds of recyclable and compostable items per week out of the landfill.

To learn more about joining the Zero Waste Schools Program and what we can offer your school, have your teacher or principal contact Callie Martin at 360-416-1575 or calliem@co.skagit.wa.us.

If your class wants more information on other ways to reduce waste, compost, recycle, or help our environment, ask your teacher to contact Callie Martin about Environmental Education presentations, curriculum resources, and books available for classrooms to borrow.



Celebrate America Recycles Day

This November 15, join people across the country in celebrating recycling. Recycling creates new products that you and your family use every day, including cans, cardboard boxes, bicycles, fleece hoodies, and more.

To show that you are serious about recycling, you can take the America Recycles Day #BeRecycled Pledge. To join over 79,200 others who have pledged to learn about recycling and to share their knowledge, visit www.americarecyclesday.org/pledge. This fun site is also filled with great resources and toolkits for teaching recycling and celebrating America Recycles Day.

America Recycles Day is also a great time to reboot your knowledge about local recycling programs. We have had some changes recently to local recycling collection programs. Households can no longer place milk cartons, plastic cups, aluminum foil, or paper coffee cups and their plastic lids into the recycling bin. Please share this information with your family so that we can all recycle right!



We saw many of you at the Skagit County Fair in August. The Skagit County Master Composters/Recyclers were on hand to answer questions and help children make a recycled craft. Look for us again next year at the Fair and at other local festivals and events.



Family fun celebrates reuse!

27th Annual Fall Garage Sale

Friday and Saturday, September 20-21

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Skagit Valley Fairgrounds, Mount Vernon

Over 140 vendors selling antiques and used items of all sorts! Great food! Live music! Car show on Saturday!

Admission: \$3 per person • Onsite Parking: \$3

www.skagitcounty.net/garagesale



The leaves aren't green, but the cleanup can be!

As the temperatures start to fall, so do the color-changing leaves on your trees! While that means seeing your friends at school and taking part in fall sports and other activities, it also means your parents might be waving a rake at you one day. Although the leaves are brown, red, and yellow, raking and yard cleanup can be green!



If you don't have a lot of leaves, mow over them, chopping them into small bits, and let them stay on the grass. If you have a lot of leaves, you can rake them or pick them up with a bagging mower. Leaves can be used as mulch in gardens or added to your compost bin.

After you've composted and mulched your leaves, you might have a few bags left over. Be sure to recycle the extras through community programs. City residents of Anacortes, Burlington, Mount Vernon, and Sedro-Woolley can have leaves picked up at the curb by ordering a yard waste cart through the City Solid Waste Department. If you live outside of these towns, ask a parent to call Waste Management at 360-757-

4068 or check www.wmnorthwest.com to check on curbside service. There are also three yard waste drop-off sites. For locations, hours, and more information, visit www.skagitcounty.net/recycle and click on "Yard Waste Facilities" on the left.

Remember — please don't burn fall leaves. When you burn piles of leaves, you can accidentally start fires that get out of control, putting people and houses in danger. Plus, burning leaves put pollution into the air, making it harder for people to breathe.

La Conner facility offers free compost

The Town of La Conner Wastewater Facility, located at 12154 Chilberg Road, produces a high-quality compost which is excellent to use in flower beds and landscaping. Self-loaded compost is available at no cost from the Compost Kiosk at the entrance to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The free Compost Kiosk is open to the public anytime. There is a \$5 to \$13 per cubic yard fee for compost loaded by a tractor during normal business hours. This facility also accepts yard waste for composting for a fee. Learn more at www.townoflaconner.org/211/Yard-Debris-Services-Rates.

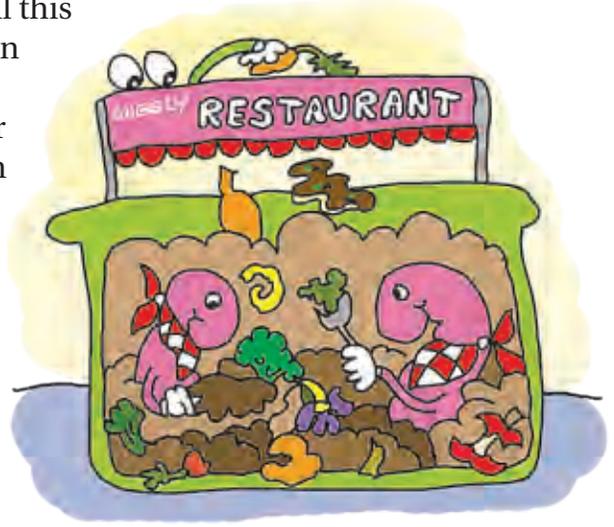
Skagit Soils in Mount Vernon also accepts yard waste and sells compost. Please call 360-424-0199 or visit <http://skagitsoilsinc.com/index.html> for details.

Worms will eat your garbage

Worms can make compost from your food scraps. We call this process “vermicomposting.” You can set up a worm bin in your kitchen, basement, or classroom. While you eat, sleep, and study, the worms will be busy feasting on your food waste and turning it into valuable and nutrient-rich compost.

Did you know that Skagit County Solid Waste Division will build a worm bin for any classroom or school interested in and willing to compost their lunch waste at school? Just contact Callie Martin at 360-416-1575 for details.

Skagit County also sponsors free workshops. A Vermicomposting 101 Workshop will be held this fall on the third floor of the Skagit Valley Food Co-op in Mount Vernon. The Co-op recommends that participants pre-register by giving them a call at 360-336-5087, extension 136. For dates and more information, please check the Skagit Valley Food Co-op newsletter, the *Natural Inquirer*, or visit www.skagitfoodcoop.com/learn/workshops.



Not into worms?

You can compost without them, too!

The Skagit County Master Composter/Recycler Program also offers free workshops throughout the fall and spring. Learn to turn yard and garden waste into food for your garden. Home composting workshops will be held:

- Tuesday, September 10, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 8, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Meet in the main outdoor pavilion at the WSU Discovery Garden, located at 16650 State Route 536 in Mount Vernon. All clinics are FREE, and the whole family is welcome. Clinics will be held rain or shine, so bring your gardening attire and dress for the weather.

Have questions? Contact Callie Martin at 360-416-1575 or calliem@co.skagit.wa.us for details. You can also visit our Skagit County Master Composter/Recycler Program Facebook page to find out more about classes offered.



The school district does not sponsor this event and the district assumes no responsibility for it. In consideration of the privilege to distribute materials, the school district shall be held harmless from any cause of action filed in any court or administrative tribunal arising out of the distribution of these materials, including costs, attorney's fees and judgments or awards.

Supplying THE Demand

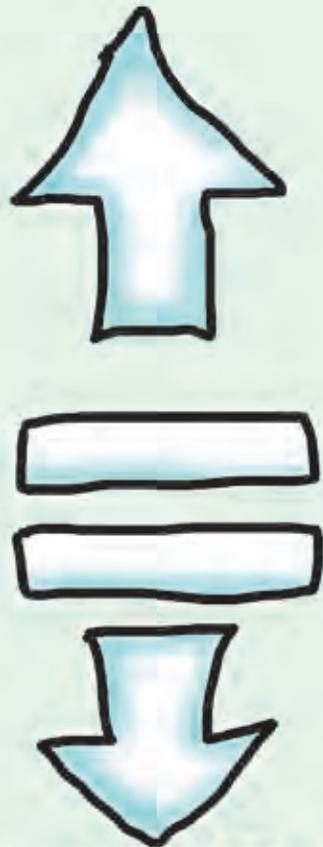
Instructions: Choose the correct answer.

If manufacturers need more recycled glass to make new bottles, what will happen to the price of used glass bottles?

Stay the same

Increase

Decrease





Something's Missing

Instructions: Fill in the missing vowels to read the message.

f y u r f m l y d s n't l r a d y d
b c k y r d c m p s t i n g, n w i s a g r a t
t m t s t a r t. Y u c n m x t g t h r
f l l a v s, d y n g g r d n p l a n t s a n d
f l w e r s, a n d f r i t a n d v e g e t a b l e s c r i p s.
A f t e r H a l w e e n, y o u c a n s m e s h
p u m p k e n s a n d j a c k - l i n t r n s
(r e m e m b e r t o r e m v e t h e c a n d l e s)
a n d a d d t h e m t o t h e b e n.

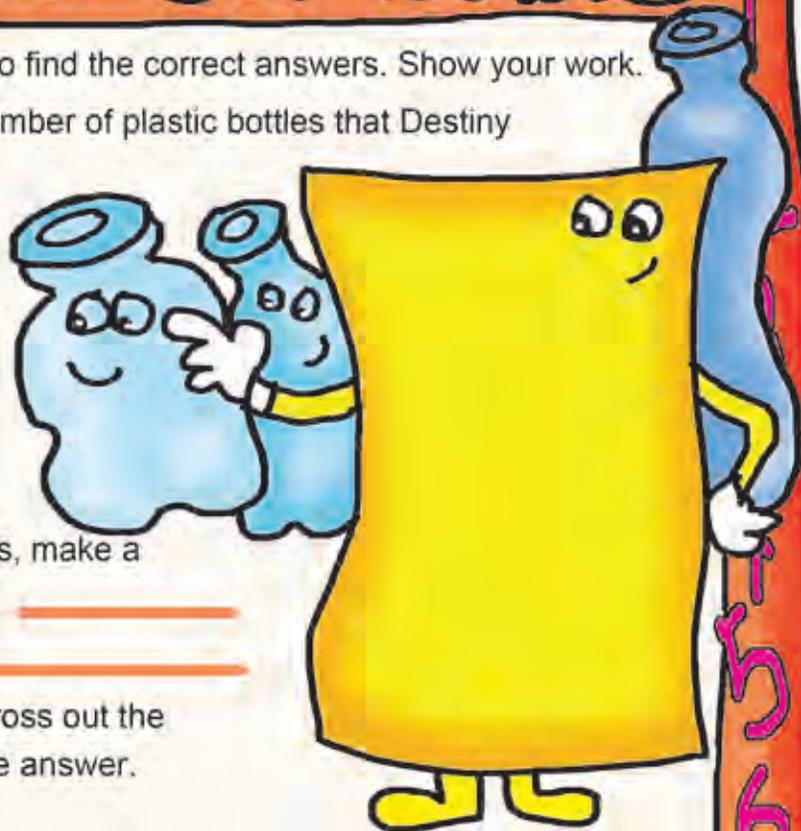
DARE TO COMPARE

Instructions: Use the clues to find the correct answers. Show your work.

The letter **B** stands for the number of plastic bottles that Destiny recycled last week.

Clues:

- A. $B + B < 25$
- B. $B > 8$
- C. **B** is an even number
- D. 3 is a factor of **B**



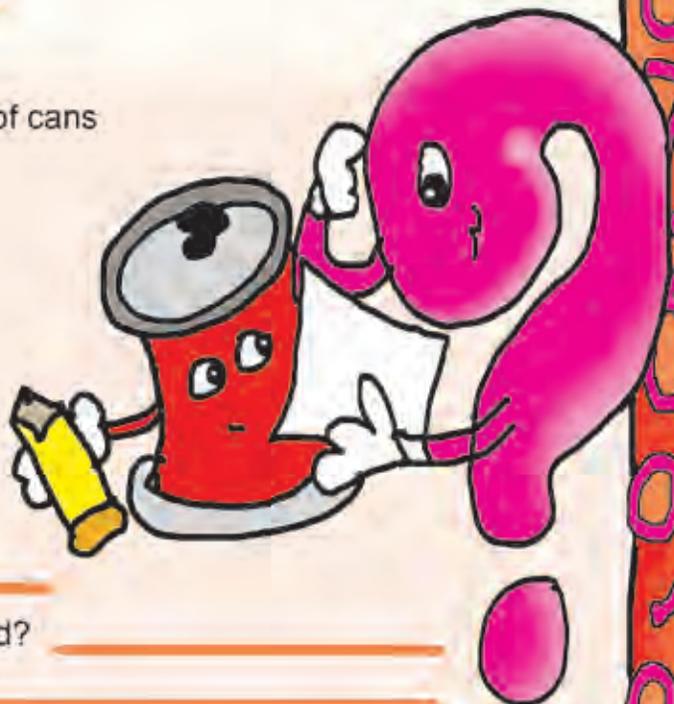
1. Based on the first two clues, make a list of all possible answers. _____

2. Using the last two clues, cross out the numbers that cannot be the answer.
3. What is **B**? _____

The letter **C** stands for the number of cans that Antonio recycled last week.

Clues:

- A. $C < 6 + 11$
- B. **C** is not an even number
- C. $C > 7$
- D. 5 is a factor of **C**



1. To find **C**, which clue would you use first? _____
2. Which clue would you use second? _____
3. What is **C**? _____
4. How did you figure out the answer? _____

WHAT'S WRONG?

In a food web, living things can be classified as producers, consumers, and decomposers. Producers use sunlight, air, and soil to produce their own food (energy). Consumers get energy by eating other living things. Decomposers get energy by breaking down dead plants and animals. Amy was supposed to correctly identify producers, consumers, and decomposers on this list. But she was in a hurry and didn't check her work. Six of her answers are wrong!

Instructions: Look at the answers. If an answer is not correct, cross it out and write the letter of the correct answer.

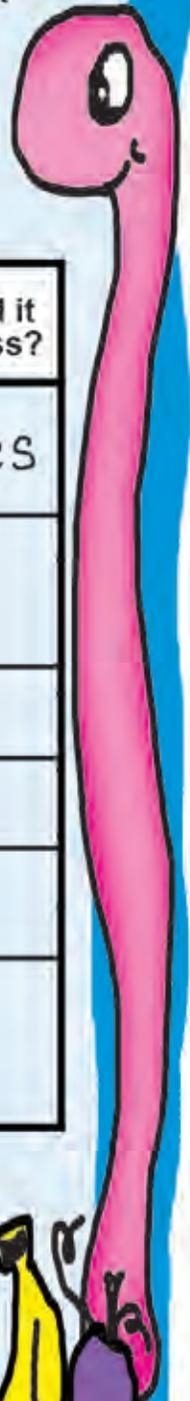
P Producer C Consumer D Decomposer

- | | | | |
|----------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| <u>P</u> | 1. Dog | <u>P</u> | 6. Bacteria |
| <u>D</u> | 2. Worm | <u>C</u> | 7. Human |
| <u>C</u> | 3. Broccoli | <u>P</u> | 8. Daisy |
| <u>P</u> | 4. Owl | <u>D</u> | 9. Mushroom |
| <u>D</u> | 5. Tree | <u>C</u> | 10. Grass |

COUNTING the VOTES

Instructions: At Oak Elementary School, 30 students serve on the student council. They have taken several votes and need your help tallying the results. For a resolution to pass, it must receive more than 50% of the votes. Round the percentages to the nearest whole number. We've done the first one for you.

| Resolution | Yes | Percentage of Votes | Did it Pass? |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. Hold a waste-free lunch challenge every Friday. | 19 | 63% | yes |
| 2. Declare "Trash Tuesdays" where students throw away as much as possible. | 2 | | |
| 3. Host an America Recycles Day family fair. | 28 | | |
| 4. Start a green team to monitor recycling bins. | 25 | | |
| 5. Require naps on Wednesday afternoons. | 1 | | |
| 6. Buy worm composting bins for the first grade classrooms and ask students to collect and compost lunch scraps. | 16 | | |



Where in the World?

Using the clues below, figure out which country ranks #2 for recycling the most per person. The government of this country has invested 2% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) into a Green Growth program to reach a 59% recycling and composting rate.

1. I am south of Russia and northeast of India.
2. Mongolia is bigger than me.
3. I am at the south end of a peninsula.
4. I am just west of Japan.



Answer: _____

Reuse Ideas

Math

- If the average American creates 5 pounds of trash per day and recycles 34.7% of that amount, how many pounds per day does the average American recycle?
- Round: 36,256,213 to the thousands place.
- What are the common factors of 15 and 25? What are the common factors of 12 and 15? What are the common factors of 8, 12, and 16?
- After completing "Counting the Votes," put the percentages in order from least to greatest.

English/Language Arts

- Identify two nouns, two adjectives, and two verbs.
- Find an email address in the newsletter.
- Fix the spelling errors in this sentence.
Wurms mayke conposting moore fun.
- Write these words in ABC (alphabetical) order:
biodegrade bacteria broccoli bag bin
rot soil spoil grow decay decompose
- Find a word that is a synonym of *fungus*.

Science

- Select the term that doesn't belong:
rot spoil grow decay
- Fill in the blank:
A scientist who studies bacteria is a _____.
- Which tool would you use to study bacteria?
microscope telescope screwdriver stethoscope

Social Studies

- What ocean is east of Japan?
- What continent is home to India, China, and Mongolia?
- Which country is bigger: China or Japan?



Journal Writing Prompts

- The original "Keep Calm and Carry On" poster was created in Great Britain in 1939 during the Second World War. Create a "Keep Calm" poster for your class or family.
- How can technology be good for the environment?
- Write shape poem about America Recycles Day. What shape will you choose?

Plastic Fact of the Day

Ninety percent of the plastic items in our daily lives are used once and then tossed: grocery bags, plastic wrap, disposable cutlery, straws, drink-cup lids, etc. Take note of how often you rely on these single-use plastics and see if you can replace some of them with reusable versions.

Extension Activity: What Did the Bug Say to the Leaf?

Make one copy of the blackline master for each student or group. Have students solve the riddle. As an extension, have students choose a riddle and create a similar puzzle.

What Did the Bug Say to the Leaf?

Name: _____

Instructions: Put the words below in alphabetical order, starting at the top. When you are done, read down the fourth column to solve the riddle.

- THROWN
- RINGER
- LEGACY
- INSECT
- ~~COINED~~
- UPTURN
- FRUITY
- LAYERS
- OBLIGE
- GRACED
- PLANET
- STAYED
- LITTER

| C | O | I | N | E | D |
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Teacher Keys

What's Wrong?

These answers were incorrect: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10

Correct answers are:

1. C
2. D
3. P
4. C
5. P
6. D
7. C
8. P
9. D
10. P



Counting the Votes

1. 63%, yes
2. 7%, no
3. 93%, yes
4. 83%, yes
5. 3%, no
6. 53%, yes

Dare to Compare

B – Destiny recycled 12 plastic bottles.

1. 9, 10, 11, 12
2. Cross out 9, 10, 11
3. 12

C – Antonio recycled 15 cans.

1. A (Answers may vary.)
2. C (Answers may vary.)
3. 15
4. $7 < C < 17$; Odd number: 9, 11, 13, 15; 15 is factor of 5 (Answers may vary.)

Something's Missing

If your family doesn't already do backyard composting, now is a great time to start. You can mix together fall leaves, dying garden plants and flowers, and fruit and vegetable scraps. After Halloween, you can smash pumpkins and jack-o-lanterns (remember to remove candles) and add them to the bin.



Supplying the Demand

The price of used bottles will **increase**.



Where in the World?

South Korea

What Did the Bug Say to the Leaf?

"Nice eating you!"



Funded by Skagit County Public Works,
Solid Waste Division

Skills and Standards

| Activity | Subject Areas | Skills Addressed |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Something's Missing | <i>English/ Language Arts</i> | Reading closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; Determining central ideas or themes of a text and analyzing their development; Summarizing the key supporting details and ideas; Analyzing the structure of texts, including how specific sentences relate to each other and the whole (Grades 4 and 5: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.5) |
| Dare to Compare | <i>Math</i> | Multiplying or dividing to solve word problems involving multiplicative comparison; Making sense of problems and seeking entry points to a solution; Modeling with mathematics; Analyzing patterns and relationships; Representing and interpreting data; Reasoning abstractly and quantitatively (Mathematical Practices: 1, 2, 4; Grade 4: 4.OA.1, 4.OA.A.3; Grade 5: 5.OA) |
| What's Wrong | <i>Science</i> | Studying ecosystems, including food webs, in order to understand the interrelationships among various forms of life and between living things and their environment; Comparing the roles of producers, consumers, and decomposers in an ecosystem (Grades 4 and 5: 4-5 LS2A, 4-5 LS2B, 4-5 LS2C, 4-5 LS2D) |
| Where in the World? | <i>Social Studies</i> | Understanding the geographic context of global issues; Demonstrating knowledge of how geographic features and human cultures impact environments; Understanding the physical characteristics, cultural characteristics, and location of places, regions, and spatial patterns on the Earth's surface (Grade 4: EALR-3.3; Grade 5: EALR-3.1, EALR-3.2) |
| Counting the Votes | <i>Environmental and Sustainability Education (ESE), Social Studies, Math</i> | Developing and applying the knowledge, perspective, vision, skills, and habits of mind necessary to make personal and collective decisions and take actions that promote sustainability (ESE Grades 4 and 5: Standard 3) Demonstrating an understanding of civic issues; Examining ways people have tried to solve environmental problems (Social Studies Grade 4: EALR 1 Civics - 1.4.1; Grade 5: EALR 1 Civics - 1.4.1) Multiplying or dividing to solve word problems involving multiplicative comparison; Making sense of problems and seeking entry points to a solution; Modeling with mathematics (Mathematical Practices: 1, 2, 4) |
| Supplying the Demand | <i>Social Studies</i> | Understanding how economic systems function; Using critical reasoning skills to analyze and evaluate positions (Grades 4 and 5: EALR-2.2, EALR-5.1) |
| Pages 1-5 Text | <i>English/ Language Arts, Science, Environmental and Sustainability Education (ESE)</i> | Reading and comprehending nonfiction, informational text; Applying context clues to determine meaning of unknown words; Determining meaning of content specific words and phrases in nonfiction text (English/LA Grade 4: RI.4.2, RI.4.4, RI.4.7, L.4.4.A, L.4.4.C, L.4.6; Grade 5: RI.5.2, RI.5.4, L.5.4.A, L.5.6) Understanding how people affect ecosystems both positively and negatively; Describing ways that humans can improve the health of ecosystems (e.g., recycling wastes, establishing rain gardens, planting native species to prevent flooding and erosion); Describing ways that humans can harm the health of ecosystems (e.g., overuse of fertilizers, littering, not recycling) (Science Grades 4 and 5: LS2F) Developing and applying the knowledge, perspective, vision, skills, and habits of mind necessary to make personal and collective decisions and take actions that promote sustainability (ESE Grades 4 and 5: Standards 1-3) |