

Hungry to Help--By Halftime

What do compassion, social activism, canned goods, and the culmination to football season all have in common? Lots, actually. In this world that grows a little more crowded every day, over-population definitely contributes to environmental issues: poverty and a lot of hungry people.

Help take part in "tackling" hunger by taking part in **The Souper Bowl of Caring**--not to be confused by its more televised homophone....**The Super Bowl!** Launch your crusade by starting at www.souperbowl.org. For 21 years, the Souper Bowl has coincided with the annual grand finale of football, one of the most-watched sporting events on TV. This youth-led service organization campaigns to collect canned goods to "sack" growing hunger issues associated with poverty.

According to multiple sources, last year's Super Bowl 43 had around 151 million viewers. What if each one of those people donated just one can of soup or veggies? How would that impact our local & national food banks? Welcome to the vision of the Souper Bowl of Caring. Take part, sign up online, & enlist the help of your children to involve your family, neighborhood, church, school, or community. Raid your pantry. Collect canned goods for a greater good. Plan a food drive event the weeks prior to Super Bowl XLIV on Feb. 7th, 2010. Last year, 4,667,609 pounds of food and \$5,568,969 were collected from 267,761 youth from over 13,000 groups. Be a part of beating those numbers this year. Inspire kids to make football-related posters to "kickoff" your campaign. This is no time to "fumble"...make it all the way "down field" to be a part of making a major "touchdown" in helping to feed those folks in need!



Play Your Cards Right

One of the major tenets of environmental education is **making connections**. Being in-touch with nature and our own community, understanding our effect on others, and taking action to improve situations are all part of this concept of "making connections."

The same is true with making curricular connections: students glean a better understanding when their prior knowledge is linked to new ideas. As teachers, it's our role to help plant these mental links in order to help build knowledge & lifelong skills. In the real world, no subject (whether it's math or science or language arts...) happens in isolation. It occurs in an everyday context, mixing & mingling with a variety of other subjects. It is no different when it comes to the range of topics that impact environmental issues.

Help build environmental awareness, critical thinking skills, and make some curricular connections along the way by using the **Green Stats Cards** on the next page. Create several class sets, or give each child a copy of the next page to cut out to make his/her own deck of cards. Incorporate some of the following activities using the eco-facts to double the "meat" of what your students learn along the way.



Math Activities:

- Use the < > and = sign cards to compare numbers (ex: 20 < 1,500).
- Put the cards in numerical order.
- Practice place value by reading multi-digit numbers, writing out the number words, or sorting by number of digits.
- Add/subtract to find totals and differences between the statistics.
- Use the numbers in relation to rounding. (ex: *What is a number that could round to "this number" without any duplicate digits?*)
- Use multiplication or division to determine how many times bigger/smaller one statistic is from another.

Topics for Class Discussions or Writing Activities:

- Which statistic surprised you the most and why?
- What can you personally do to change one of the statistics?
- Use one of the cards as a problem to solve in a creative writing story.
- How would the character in _____ story handle one of these situations?
- Which number made you the angriest and why?
- In your opinion, which statistic card is the biggest contributor to global warming?

Environmental Sorting Activities:

- Sort cards by 1+ of these topics.
 - Population, Transportation, Pollution
 - Land, Sea, Air
 - Units of measure (money, time, weight, miles, etc.)
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Waste
- Paper, plastic, aluminum, water

The Green Team Gazette

is a publication co-sponsored by the founders of CynerGreen, CGKidz, and Gibson Island Country School, a Green School in Pasadena, Maryland. Our mission is to educate and share ways to "go green"—both big and small--and be environmentally-proactive at home, in school, and beyond. It is written by Vicki Dabrowka, and edited by Danelle Hoffer. Additional contributors include: G.I.C.S. Science Teacher Tim Decker; G.I.C.S. Head of School Laura Kang; CGKidz creator, twelve-year old Riley Hoffer. To learn more visit www.cynergreen.com, www.cgkidz.com, and www.gics.org.



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Green Stats Cards



--from Ready, Set, Green: Eight Weeks to Modern Eco-Living,
by Graham Hill & Meaghan O'Neill of www.treehugger.com, 2008

1,000,000,000

= number of people worldwide by 1820

2,000,000,000

= number of people worldwide by 1930

3,000,000,000

= number of people worldwide by 1960

6,000,000,000

= number of people worldwide by 1999

16,000

= estimated number of plastic bags
people use per second globally

100,000,000,000

= approximate number of single-use plastic bags from
stores are given out in the U.S. per year

20

= approximate number of minutes a single-use
plastic bag (from a store) is used before it is tossed

80

= approximate number of gallons of water
each American use per day

2½

= the worldwide average number of gallons of water each
person uses elsewhere in the world (not in the U.S.) per day

38,000,000,000

= number of dollars per year spent in the
U.S. on pet items

350

= approx. number of pounds of paper the average person
working in an office throws away (not recycles) per year

14

= number of months the Earth needs to regenerate a year's
worth of resources at our current global rate of use.

88,000,000

= approx. number tons of garbage created
in the U.S. in 1960

245,000,000

= number of tons of garbage created
in the U.S. in 2005

250,000

= number of gallons of drinking water that can be polluted
from only 1 quart of motor oil that seeps into groundwater

1,500

= average number of miles our food travels to get from
being grown/raised/produced to the store to you

7,000,000

= number of gallons of bottled water
Americans drank in 2004

30,000,000

= approximate number of single-use plastic
water bottles Americans buy per year

845

= estimated number of unrecycled water bottles that end
up in American trash cans/landfills per second

500

= number of years it takes for plastic to biodegrade
(Side note: some experts believe it takes closer to 1000 years for this to happen)



greater than



less than



equals