

Tips for Creating an Effective Earth+ Lesson Plan

- 1) Know your subject. The more you know about your what you want to teach, the better your lesson plan will be. This is not because you can put more into your lesson plan, but because you will be better able to choose what students should learn about.
- 2) The most important step of writing a lesson plan is deciding the goals.
- 3) Think up a great "hook". A "hook" is something you do at the beginning of a lesson to get students interested in what you're going to teach. It's usually a good idea to do something that gets students to think about how what they are going to learn about is related to their own lives. A hook could be just a question (for example, What do you think happens to the garbage that you throw away?). It could be a photograph, or short video, or an object that you show students that is related to your topic, and then ask students to comment about it. Whatever you do, it's usually a good idea to have a hook that gets students to talk or write something down.
- 4) Pay close attention to how you will help students to learn vocabulary words. Learning the language that people use to talk about a topic is essential to learning about the topic. If you do a good job of helping students to understand and be able to use vocabulary words to communicate about the subject, you will give them something they can use in many different ways for the rest of their lives. Language is power.
- 5) Give students opportunities to communicate and be creative. Learning doesn't just occur when a student is listening to a teacher or reading an assignment; it also happens when someone is trying to figure out how to talk or write about something, or to create something new.
- 6) Try to have students work in teams. When students work in teams, they learn from each other, and they have more opportunities to communicate about what they are learning.
- 7) Think about how you will end the lesson in such a way that students will remember the most important ideas and will use what they have learned in their lives.
- 8) Think about how you will find out if your lesson worked, after it's all over.