

Bear's Den

Action Project Lesson Plan

Purpose

For students to choose a classroom action project and develop a plan for its implementation.

Overview

In small groups, students will create presentations to pitch their action project idea to a panel of “Bears” (teachers), akin to the hit TV series, “Dragon’s Den”. Teachers and students will work collectively to choose the winning action project idea, and the class will begin to work on their implementation plan.

Getting Organized

Level: Grade 6

Length: Minimum two hours

Curriculum Connections:

Science & Technology- Biodiversity

Language- Reading, Writing, Media Literacy

Social Studies- Canada’s Interactions with the Global Community

Materials:

- Eco Adventure Guides (Action Project planning pages 20-22)*
- Action Project Pitch sheet (4 copies)*
- Evaluation sheet (1 per panelist)*
- Pencils, erasers
- Camera

Teacher Background

Through their participation in the **Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow** program, students and teachers feel incredibly inspired to make a difference in their school and local community, especially after they return from their visit to the outdoor centre. However, classes can sometimes feel overwhelmed and not know where to begin when it comes to implementing a meaningful classroom action project. This lesson has been designed to get classes thinking about potential projects, identify the top four ideas, select the project that works best for them, and begin project planning and implementation.

The Bear’s Den is modeled after the hit TV show “Dragon’s Den”, in which entrepreneurs present their ideas to a panel of potential investors. In the Bear’s Den, students present an action project proposal. Their goal is to sell their idea to the panel of teachers (Bears) and their classmates. This lesson can be completed in one time slot or broken down into stages over the course of a few days.

Activity

1. Kick off your lesson by re-visiting with students the ultimate goal of the **Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow** program, which is to inspire students to be environmental leaders and take action in their school or local community.
2. Take 10 to 15 minutes to brainstorm ideas for environmental projects that students might be interested in completing. Help to guide this discussion by linking back to the schoolyard biodiversity mapping you completed in phase 1, as well as to the experiences and learning that took place during your visit to the outdoor centre. Many grade 6 students come up with ideas such as making informative posters; challenge them to think big and come up with action projects that will have a greater impact. For ideas, you can refer to



the Lesson Plan section of the website or email your contact at the outdoor centre.

3. Once the brainstorm list is complete, choose the best four action project ideas and have students record these on page 20 of their *EcoAdventure Guide*. Divide the class into four groups and assign one of the action projects to each group. Instruct each group of students to complete the *Action Project Pitch sheet* (see below) to help them prepare their presentation. Allow enough time for students to develop their presentation.
4. Prepare for the presentations by recruiting one or two other teachers or resource staff to serve on the panel. You may also want to consider including custodial and administrative staff, as action projects often impact all members of the school community. Photocopy one *Evaluation sheet* (see below) per panelist.
5. Have each of the four groups present their pitch to the class and panelists. As the presentations are happening, have the Bears (staff) fill out their *Evaluation* sheet. The audience should be encouraged to engage with the presenters by asking questions and seeking additional project information.
6. Once all the presentations have been made, hold a class vote and ask the panelists to record on their *Evaluation* sheets the number of votes for each project. Collect the *Evaluation* sheets.
7. Review the comments made by the panelists, as well as the number of votes received for each proposed project. **Announce the winning classroom action project!**
8. Now that the classroom action project has been selected, have students begin to plan for their project using page 21 of their *EcoAdventure Guide*. Be sure to take lots of pictures as you plan, initiate, and complete your project.
9. Upon project completion, have students fill out page 22 in their *EcoAdventure Guide* as a way to reflect on their learning. Be sure to share your project with outdoor centre staff when they visit your class during phase 3 of the program.

Online Resources

Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow, Lesson Plans | http://www.enviroleaders.ca/lesson_plans

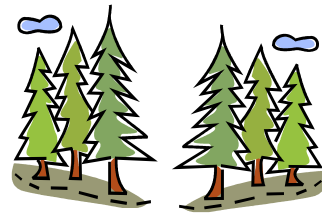
CBC's Dragon's Den | <http://www.cbc.ca/dragonsden/>





Bear's Den

Action Project Pitch



Action Project Name: _____

Summary of Action Project:

How does this project help the environment?

How will you measure the success of your project?

How will you divide up the pieces of the project?

What materials will you need?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Will your project cost any money? _____ **Approximately how much?** _____

When will your project start? _____ **When will it be completed?** _____

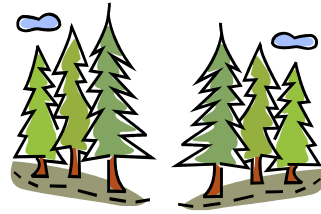
Is there ongoing care or maintenance for your project? Who will take care of it?

Use the back of the page to write notes for your presentation, such as who says what, sales pitch ideas, or interesting facts.



Bear's Den

Evaluation Sheet



Group 1

Project title: _____

Do you feel the class can accomplish this project? _____

Does this project meet the goals of the *Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow* program? (Ecological Literacy, Environmental Leadership & Community Action) _____

Will this project need funding? _____

Notes:

Number of student votes: _____

Group 2

Project title: _____

Do you feel the class can accomplish this project? _____

Does this project meet the goals of the *Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow* program? (Ecological Literacy, Environmental Leadership & Community Action) _____

Will this project need funding? _____

Notes:

Number of student votes: _____

Group 3

Project title: _____

Do you feel the class can accomplish this project? _____

Does this project meet the goals of the *Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow* program? (Ecological Literacy, Environmental Leadership & Community Action) _____

Will this project need funding? _____

Notes:

Number of student votes: _____

Group 4

Project title: _____

Do you feel the class can accomplish this project? _____

Does this project meet the goals of the *Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow* program? (Ecological Literacy, Environmental Leadership & Community Action) _____

Will this project need funding? _____

Notes:

Number of student votes: _____