

PARENT BRIEFING

Module

Environmental Issues

- Conduct an experiment to test the effect of acid precipitation on seed germination.
- Conduct an experiment to demonstrate the greenhouse effect on land and water surfaces.
- Conduct a risk-benefit analysis on an environmental issue.
- Simulate an oil spill and test various cleanup methods.

Session Focus

- 1 Fossil Fuels, pH, Acid Rain Investigation
- 2 Resource Types, Pasta Mining Activity, Resources
- 3 Pollution, Oil Spill Cleanup Activity
- 4 Paper Recycling Activity, Solid Waste
- 5 Greenhouse Effect, Global Warming, Greenhouse Effect Experiment
- 6 Growth Curves, Growth Equation, Population
- 7 Environmental Regulation, Acid Rain Investigation, Risk-Benefit Analysis

Dear Parent,

As parents and teachers, we realize it can be hard to get a child to discuss what he or she is learning in school. We hope the information provided on this page will assist you in communicating with your child about what he or she is learning.

For the next few days, your child will be learning how major environmental issues affect both the environment and society. As your child's best teacher, your participation in the learning process is extremely important.

Words students will learn in this Module include:

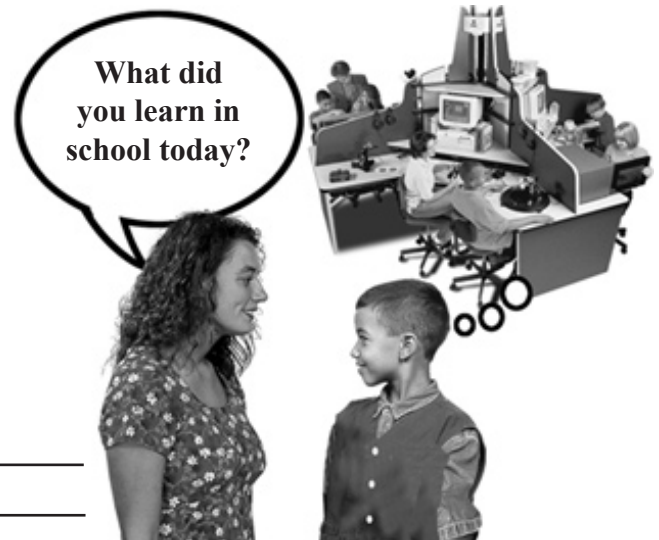
- acid precipitation
- bioremediation
- biotic potential
- carrying capacity
- exponential growth
- greenhouse effect
- global warming
- incineration
- landfill
- logistic growth
- pollution
- recycling
- resource
- source reduction
- sustainability
- wastestream

Questions for discussion

During the course of this Module, your child will be assessed on key concepts and activities. You might want to discuss these concepts with your child.

He or she will be asked to:

- Explain the process used in class to make recycled paper. *(Used paper was torn, blended with water and cornstarch to form pulp, poured onto a screen and distributed evenly, flattened onto blotting paper, and dried.)*
- Explain the difference between renewable and nonrenewable resources. *(Renewable resources, such as forests and fisheries, can be sustained by regrowing them. Nonrenewable resources, such as fossil fuels, are depleted with use.)*
- Explain the difference between exponential and logistic population growth. *(Exponential growth is rapid, uncontrolled growth. Logistic growth levels off as factors limit the population.)*



Student: _____

Parent: _____