

Environmental Education

For Tomorrow's Stewards

November 2018

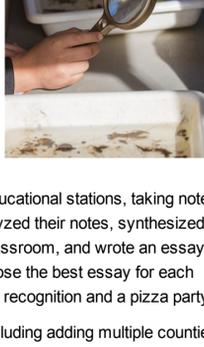
Educational Highlight

Duck River Education Day

Tennessee's Duck River is the most biologically diverse river in North America, and the Duck River Education Day teaches Tennessee's 5th graders about its wildlife, watershed, and wonderful importance!

In 2018, the event has expanded to educate at over 1,700 fifth grade students in just one year. This past month over 400 students from Marshall County walked through ten educational stations, taking notes along the way. They returned to school, analyzed their notes, synthesized the information with all they learned in the classroom, and wrote an essay about their Duck River. Event organizers chose the best essay for each county, and the students were rewarded with recognition and a pizza party!

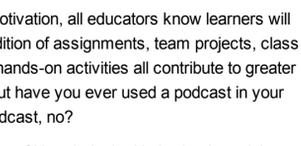
This program has big plans for the future, including adding multiple counties to the events and creating an informational booklet for upcoming 4th graders. Congratulations to the Duck River Agency and the Friends of Henry Horton State Park on a successful year of learning!



In the News...

Podcasts and Simulations.

Are you using them in the classroom, yet?



While a traditional lecture can allow for repetition and even motivation, all educators know learners will eventually need more. The addition of assignments, team projects, class or small group discussions, and hands-on activities all contribute to greater understanding and retention, but have you ever used a podcast in your teaching? Technology, yes. Podcast, no?

A recent study by the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands and the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom explored using podcasts in the classroom as a catalyst for stronger conversation and learning. Podcasts were noted as encouraging "deeper engagement" among students, addressing "misconceptions" on controversial issues, and providing multiple perspectives that may have been missed during direct instruction (Popova and Edirisingha, 3).

Podcasts also encourage students to choose learning. An unfinished and interesting podcast from class can be completed and further explored on the bus, in the car, or at home.

Bonus: Podcasts provide educators with the opportunity to teach students how to identify factual and unbiased sources of information!

[EE Resources: 18 Podcast for K-12 Learners](#)

Highlighted Simulation:

World Climate Simulation

Used in 85 countries, the World Climate Simulation is a role playing exercise of the UN climate change negotiations for groups. It is unique in that it uses an interactive computer model to rapidly analyze the results of the mock-negotiations during the event. All the materials and tools for World Climate are available for free and many are available in multiple languages.

You can use the World Climate Simulation to build climate change awareness and enable people to experience some of the dynamics that emerge in the UN climate negotiations. The exercise is framed by current climate change science, using the interactive C-ROADS computer simulation which allows participants to find out how their proposed policies impact the global climate system in real-time.

World Climate is suitable for, and has been used with, people from middle school to graduate school students, community and religious groups, executive leaders, scientists, and everyone in between.

Use this simulation to integrate math, science, history, language, and writing standards!

Ready for an inside look at the World Climate Simulation in action? Watch the video below!

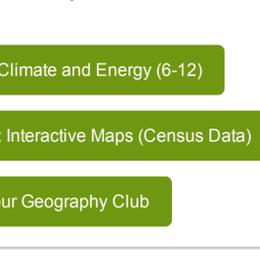


[Learn More about the World Climate Simulation](#)

Don't Miss...

Geography Awareness Week

November 11 - 17



Too many young Americans are unable to make effective decisions, understand geo-spatial issues, or even recognize their impacts as global citizens.

National Geographic created Geography Awareness Week to raise awareness to this dangerous deficiency in American education and excite people about geography as both a discipline and as a part of everyday life.

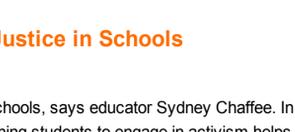
Geography Awareness Week is an annual public awareness program encouraging citizens young and old to think and learn about the significance of place and how we affect and are affected by it.

[Physical Geography: Climate and Energy \(6-12\)](#)

[GIS and Human Geography: Interactive Maps \(Census Data\)](#)

[Activities for Your Geography Club](#)

Professional Development



Webinar:

Social Justice in Schools

Social justice belongs in our schools, says educator Sydney Chaffee. In a bold talk, she shows how teaching students to engage in activism helps them build important academic and life skills -- and asks us to rethink how we can use education to help kids find their voices. "Teaching will always be a political act," Chaffee says. "We can't be afraid of our students' power. Their power will help them make tomorrow better."

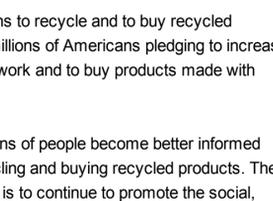
November 27th 3pm - 4pm EST

If you are unable to join the live session - never fear! Anyone who registers will receive the recorded webinar via email!

[Register Online Today!](#)

Sustainability Corner

Recycling



America Recycles Day is the only nationally recognized day dedicated to encouraging Americans to recycle and to buy recycled products. It has grown to include millions of Americans pledging to increase their recycling habits at home and work and to buy products made with recycled materials.

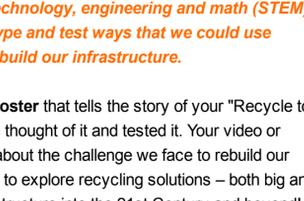
On November 15 each year, millions of people become better informed about the importance of daily recycling and buying recycled products. The purpose of America Recycles Day is to continue to promote the social, environmental and economic benefits of recycling and encourage more people to join the movement toward creating a better natural environment.

[EE Resources: Recycling \(K-12\)](#)

[Learn More About America Recycles Day](#)

Get Involved!

Recycle to Rebuild Contest



Students in grades K-12 are invited to participate in a national recycling awareness contest sponsored by the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries and JASON Learning. The theme of this year's contest is, "Recycle to Rebuild."

Students are challenged to apply the knowledge, ideas and skills they have gained from science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), to research, imagine, prototype and test ways that we could use recycled materials to help rebuild our infrastructure.

Create an original video or poster that tells the story of your "Recycle to Rebuild" solution, and how you thought of it and tested it. Your video or poster should educate others about the challenge we face to rebuild our infrastructure and inspire them to explore recycling solutions – both big and small – that will bring our infrastructure into the 21st Century and beyond!

Students can enter the contest as **individuals** or as a **team** of up to four individuals. Each individual or team can submit either a video or a poster to the contest. One video and one poster will be selected as a finalist from each of **three grade bands**: K-4, 5-8, and 9-12. Up to two grand-prize winners will be selected.

Grand prize winners will receive a trip for one team representative and a parent/guardian chaperone to ISRI's Annual Convention & Exposition to be held in Los Angeles in April 2019.

Entries due December 15th!

[Learn More and Apply](#)

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