



Maggie's Activity Pack

Name _____

Date _____



How Much Is Enough?



1 Nature is important. We all need clean water. We get food from the land.
2 Today people are asking a key question, "How much land do we need to
3 preserve?" Sometimes it is not just about how much land is needed for
4 conservation. Many times we need to look at where this land is located. We need
5 to know how it is connected to other green or open spaces. We need to know if
6 cities have enough green areas. We need to set aside land as it supports many
7 people. We need to think about the water that provides us with food and
8 transportation.

9 There is a new movement that understands how green spaces help us.
10 This movement is boldly saying that "Nature Needs Half." This means that when
11 we build, we need to think about the part that should be left green. We can now
12 see these important green spaces. Satellite images and GPS devices in cars and
13 cell phones allow everyone to see how much land we are protecting.

14 The U.S. state of Maryland is looking at how much land is protected,
15 especially in the area between Washington D.C. and Baltimore, Maryland. This is
16 called the BW Corridor. This Corridor still has wonderful forests, birds, rivers, and
17 open spaces. Many people can enjoy nature in these areas. They also benefit
18 from the good health nature provides. Four Federal agencies have land in the
19 BW Corridor. This adds up to more than 26,000 acres. They work together to
20 share ideas and manage the forests and open space here. In fact, this green,
21 natural land has even been called the "Green Lungs" of Washington D.C.

22 Trees and other plants not only provide shade and habitat for birds and
23 other wildlife, but they also take up carbon dioxide and release oxygen. These
24 plants act as "lungs" by exchanging these gases. They are releasing oxygen into
25 the air.

26 With the "Nature Needs Half" program, our communities would be
27 encouraged to leave forests and green spaces. This would help our air quality
28 and improve the health of the near-by people. In one study by the space agency,
29 NASA, scientists found that plants in a home will help reduce indoor air pollution.
30 This means cleaner air for you! As we continue to build new communities, we
31 need to understand the benefits of green spaces. We need to leave half for
32 nature!

Part A: Answering the Content Questions

Look at the questions below. Find the answer in the article. Write only the number of the line where the answer is found.

1. What is the area between Baltimore, Maryland and Washington D.C. called? _____
2. What allows people to see how much land we are protecting? _____
3. What key question are people asking? _____
4. What important phrase is a new movement saying about the importance of green spaces? _____
5. What can help you reduce indoor air pollution? _____
6. What is the green, natural land outside of Washington D.C. called? _____

Part B: Thinking about the Science Content

Use the facts to answer these questions.

1. How do trees and plants keep air healthy? _____

2. Why would it be especially important to be sure there are green spaces in and around big cities?

Dear Colleague,

This activity is really a testament to the vision of our founder, Maggie Bryant. She believes in the power of people working together in partnership. Several friends of Maggie's Earth Adventures contributed to this article, including Vance Martin of the Wild Foundation (www.wild.org). We applaud him for his vision and hard work in the conservation movement. He is someone who truly works for a healthy planet so that our children and grandchildren can enjoy all that the natural world has to offer.

I also thank my many teacher advisors who ask for specific activities. I have heard from some of you that you appreciate these line number offerings as they help your children develop the habit of looking back in the text. Of course, we always hasten to include the other components of content area literacy, those all important application and evaluation skills. Science literacy has become a hallmark of our program and is a topic I see becoming more popular in academic writing. So, we thank you for your input and suggestions as we continue to bring you science (and other content area) literacy activities.

As I consider your input, I am reminded that many teachers ask about classroom management techniques. This is a topic near and dear to my heart. I firmly believe in the power of being positive with children. This correlates with Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, a reasonable idea that the basic needs of humans such as safety, shelter, food, etc. must be met before higher order thinking can even be engaged in. The safety of our classrooms has always been important to me. News reports about bullying have reminded me that we teachers have a responsibility to create and model positive interactions in our classrooms. One way to create this atmosphere is to merely say, "I like the way (insert child's name) is sitting looking at me." This positive comment rather than yelling at a child for their poor behavior will often cause most other children to model the behavior you want to see. Research shows this is more powerful in establishing long term positive behavior than is fear. I also add that when a class is getting louder and louder, it is usually more compelling for the teacher to lower his or her voice. Whispering will get attention much sooner than will yelling. If you are having trouble with one child's behavior, find a way to make a connection. I remember one upper level student who did not respond to my techniques. I observed him interact with his peers and listened to his conversations. I soon discovered he had a parent living in another part of the country. This was a place I was familiar with, and we began communicating about this city. Before long, this student was one of my greatest supporters and among the first to follow directions. His grades improved drastically. It was because I bothered to find a connection, and I showed interest in him. I point this out as I am aware that there remain schools in the United States where corporal punishment is still practiced. Maslow would most decidedly argue that children in these schools will not learn as their basic need for feeling safe has not been met. I concur with this. In my experience, I found that praise, encouragement, and finding connections work far more effectively than the fear of the paddle. I encourage you to get involved in seeing that we educate the public about proper classroom management.

Thank you,
Kathy

Answer Key:

1. 16
2. 12 (and possibly 13)
3. 2 and 3
4. 10
5. 29
6. 21

Other answers will vary.

Goals

Students will read an article about the importance of green space in metropolitan areas. A new movement, "Nature Needs Half" is highlighted. Follow-up activities include questions designed to scaffold learning to further develop content area comprehension skills. This activity is available on the primary and intermediate levels. A companion emergent level activity is also available. The WAP correlates with Content Standard F, Science in Personal and Social Perspectives of the National Science Standards.