

ECO-ACTION!

Activity Information

Grade Appropriate Level: Grade 10-12

Duration: 30 minutes for Introductory Activity & approximately 2 - 40 minute periods for the Story Lessons

Materials: Large floor space. Simple costume/prop items can be included to increase the fun. (optional)

Objectives

To creatively explore topics related to environmental issues and to provide a strong foundation for spring boarding into greater illumination. Note: These lessons are composed of tried-and-true Improvisation games such as those featured in the television show, “Whose Line is it Anyway?” and in “Theatre Sports” leagues.

Prescribed Learning Outcomes

Drama, English, Social Studies

- Tailor these to suit your needs. Highlight your chosen interests during discussions and your follow-up activities. The teacher can develop criteria along with the students.



Introductory Activity

These games are fun! All games can be started by saying, “ACTION” and ended by saying, “CUT”.

Warm-up (Full Circle/Full Group)

- Fortunately ... Unfortunately ... Suggestions to start a story are taken from the Group or the Teacher and the improvised results sent around with each person speaking a “Fortunate” or “Unfortunate” development in turn. If anyone is shy they “pass”.

Suggestion titles:

1. When Joe joined Greenpeace
 2. Little Billy’s Chainsaw
 3. Today in Tofino
- And then ... Similarly, a “round” story with each adding as much or little as they like. Keep the action going. Transitions like “Meanwhile...” (to change characters & settings) allow great ease and freedom.

Suggestions then:

1. Sally saves Seashells
2. Who shepherds the Sea Shepherds?
3. A Whale of a Tale



Suggested Instructional Strategies

- **Conducted Story** – now the most confident, outgoing, knowledgeable will lead. Have 5 volunteers stand in a line before the group. Another “conducts” by pointing at the storyteller, randomly so that each one pointed to knows it’s his/her turn to speak adding onto the story from that moment. Together this line of storytellers will quite easily make up an exciting narrative.

Suggestion: more titles or i.e. 3 objects to incorporate:

1. Map, compass, hockey stick
2. Swiss army knife, fishing line, stapler
3. Flashlight, umbrella, raccoon

- **Conducted Genre** – the same conducted story is set up but this time each of the storytellers is given a genre to change the story to when they are pointed at. The same story continues, entertainingly, changing genres.

Suggestions: the people could be “horror”, “western”, “romance”, “sci-fi”, and “documentary”. The title could be:

1. Eulalie from Ucluelet
2. Treetop Trouble
3. The Bare Bear



- **Characters “Take” it Away**

The volunteers stand in a line but in this improv anyone can “take” the story by stepping forward. Whoever was speaking would then have to stop and step back, with the freedom to take the story again by taking a step forward. When each steps forward they assume a different character that was involved in the previous event they are now describing. For example, the “logger” could listen to what the “protestor” said happened at the blockade and step forward to give his version of the event.

The storyteller could chose to represent any character he/she wants.
Suggested titles:

1. The Surprise Blockade
2. Fishing for Facts
3. Fire in the Hills!

Suggested Assessment Strategies

- Consider active participation, knowledge displayed and communication effectiveness. Large groups, small groups and individual strategies can be employed. Oral and/or written.

Extension Activities

As you can imagine, entertainment has met enlightenment to some degree, and many topics, issues, perspectives, concerns and opinions will have been aired. Natural connections to further investigations, seminars, lessons, teaching, information sharing can occur. Furthermore, these activities can be done with virtually any age level.

Cross Curricular Interests

Science-Technology-Society
Environment & Sustainability



Suggested Links

www.kidsseek.ca

www.greenkids.com/about.html

www.davidsuzuki.org/WOL/Challenge/Newsletter/eight.asp