SOIL STORIES: PAINTING AND PROTECTING OUR LIVING EARTH

Feedback form link & QR code:

https://ecolise.eu/curiosoil-lesson-plan-form-EN

HARMONY IN THE EARTH: CRAFTING SOIL STORIES THROUGH MUSIC AND DRAMA

Subject: **Art and Environmental Education**
Duration: 45 minutes
Age group: 16-18 years old
Topic: Soil literacy through art, music, and drama
Connection to Curiosoil tools: Soil sounds

Learning outcomes

Knowledge:
- Students will learn about the importance of soil, its diversity, and the solutions to soil-related issues.

Skills:
- Creative expression through art and drama
- Ability to collaborate in group activities
- Music creation and rhythm understanding

Competences:
- Critical thinking about environmental challenges
- Communication and presentation skills

Learning objectives aligned with soil competence areas

Soil competence area	Indicators	Descriptors
1. Soil functions	Understanding soil roles	Students recognize how soils support plant growth, cycle nutrients, and filter water.
2. Soil diversity	Awareness of soil types	Identifying different soils and their unique characteristics.
3. Soil threats	Recognition of soil threats	Understanding erosion, contamination, and loss of fertility.
4. Soil solutions	Knowledge of sustainable practices	Identifying practices like composting, crop rotation, and organic farming.

LESSON STRUCTURE

Activity title: Harmony in the Earth: crafting soil stories through music and drama

Description

Students will engage in creating a musical piece inspired by soil and perform a drama skit themed around soil health and conservation.

Materials
- Simple percussion instruments (e.g., tambourines, maracas)
- Costume pieces or props (optional)
- Paper and coloured pencils/pens
- Computer with Internet connection and loudspeaker to play soil sounds
- Smartphone for audio recording (if available)

Setup instructions
Arrange the classroom to have an open space for performance.
Divide students into six small groups.

Step-by-step process

1. Introduction (8 minutes)

Briefly introduce soil's importance and its diverse roles (SLAF). Play a minute of soil sounds, explain that healthy soil has a distinctive soundtrack of its own – the crackles, pops and clicks of ants and worms bustling around underground.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6LdrHUd33XE

2. Group activity (12 minutes):
- Music creation: Three groups create a short "Soil Symphony" using percussion instruments to imitate the sound of soil.
- Drama play: Three groups create a short skit related to soil (e.g. earthworms meeting and having a conversation about humans).

Tip: Walk around and ask questions to support creative thinking. Find the questions in the Annex.

3. Performance (15 minutes):

- Each group presents their work to the class.

4. Discussion and conclusion (10 minutes):
- Discuss what was learned and how art and music can communicate environmental messages.
- Reflect on positive solutions and behaviors toward soil conservation.

Recording

Use smartphones to record performances, if available.

Follow-up documentation

Record key reflections and solutions presented by each group.

Syllabus content reference

Environmental science, Art, and Music curriculum

Assessment
Formative assessment: Observation during group work, providing feedback on collaboration and creativity.
Summative assessment: Evaluation of performances based on creativity, understanding of soil issues, and teamwork.

Differentiation strategies

For advanced learners: Assign them leadership roles within groups.

For struggling learners: Provide additional prompts or guidance for creating skits.

For students whose first language is not the language of instruction: Use visual aids and translations for key terms.

Extension activities

Immediate extensions: Create a mural or poster showcasing solutions to soil issues.
Home learning: Write a short story about a world without healthy soil.

Health and safety considerations

Ensure the open space is safe for movement and that instruments are used safely.

Music creation questions and prompts

Understanding soil types:
- What different types of soil can you think of (e.g., sandy, clay, loamy), and how can you represent them through sound?
- How can you use rhythm or tempo to depict the texture of different soils?

Incorporating natural elements:
- How can you represent the sound of rain nurturing the soil?
- What rhythm would mimic the roots growing through the soil?

Exploring soil functions:
- Can you create a sequence of sounds that represents the nutrient cycle in soil?
- How can music reflect the filtration process of soil purifying water?

Symbolizing soil threats and solutions:
- What kind of beat would symbolize soil erosion, and how can it transition into a more harmonious rhythm to show a solution?
- How might you use sound to depict pollution in soil, and its impact?

Collaborative creation:
- How can you ensure each group member's instrument adds to the overall message of your Soil Symphony?
- What role will each instrument play in conveying the story of soil?

Drama play questions and prompts

Conveying soil diversity:

- How can your characters represent the organisms living within soil?
- What dialogue or actions can illustrate the benefits of various soils?

Addressing soil threats:
- How can you dramatize a scenario where soil is threatened by human activity?
- What kind of conflict might arise from soil degradation, and how can it be resolved in your skit?

Focusing on positive solutions:
- What characters can embody positive solutions to soil challenges, such as a farmer practicing sustainable agriculture?
- How can you portray a community coming together to save a local soil environment?

Incorporating humour and emotion:
- How can humour be used to engage the audience while delivering a serious message about soil conservation?
- What emotional moments will connect your audience to the plight and success of your characters?

Structuring the skit:
- What is the beginning, middle, and end of your story? How will you show a transformation or solution?
- How can your characters' actions directly teach the audience about caring for and restoring soil?