

THE TABLET *jr.*

Caring for God's Creation

The Tablet Jr. is edited by CTN, the educational services department of DeSales Media Group.



Teaching Guide Vol. 4; Issue 6

Each month has a specific theme tied to Catholic Social Teaching. The themes of Catholic Social Teaching can be integrated into many subjects. This Instructional Guide is full of resources to help you connect the stories and features to your lesson plans.

This month's edition is created by the student journalists of Good Shepherd Catholic Academy.



New York Companies Captivate Kindness



Read the Tablet Jr. article as a class.

Essential Question: What is our Civil Duty as citizens to the planet?

YouTube Video: [DE: Don't Call Me Greta!](#)

Video Description: Australian teenager Ambrose Hayes is protesting against the federal government's plans to invest in carbon-emitting projects as part of the country's economic recovery from a tough year. He is just one of a global army of youngsters fighting the climate's corner.

Activities

- Don't Call Me Greta:
 - ◆ Who is the "Greta" the video title is talking about?
 - ◆ Talk about the impact she had in the world as a teenager
- [YouTube Read Aloud: Outside In](#)
 - ◆ [Activity PDF](#)
- [STEM Careers: Community Gardener](#)
 - ◆ How does your garden grow? [Virtual Lab Activity](#)
 - ◆ [Develop a Habitat Project](#)

Additional Resources Continued

Reflection Questions can be presented in different ways depending on grade level and ability. Platforms that can be used are Padlet and Jamboard.

Reflection Questions:

- 1) Describe the most natural environment for a human being. Does your description match the environment you live in?
- 2) What do you do with a piece of trash when there is no trash can near you?
- 3) Should people who litter be fined? How much money should they have to pay?

Additional Resources

- iCivics Rachel Carson (6-8)
 - ◆ Teacher Guide
 - ◆ Do This Not That Challenge
 - ◆ Biography Cube
- DE: United Nations Agree on Treaty to Protect Ocean Life in the High Seas
 - ◆ Create a poster advocating to protect ocean life and its importance
- Make Our Earth Better (PK-2)
 - ◆ Mini Lesson
 - ◆ Nature Scavenger Hunt
- Saving Turtles in NY
 - ◆ WWF Sea Turtles Educators Guide
 - ◆ WWF Sea Turtles Presentation

Toxic Trainwreck



Read the Tablet Jr. article as a class.

Essential Question: Are humans hurting the environment instead of helping?

[Discovery Education Video: Human Impact on the Environment](#)

Video Description: Discuss humans' impact on their environment and the ensuing climate changes. While many people feel as if humans are too insignificant to make an impact, many argue that this is not the case.

Activities

- [YouTube Read Aloud: Oil Spill](#) by (3-8)
 - ◆ [Oil Spill Science Experiment](#)
- [DE: Take Back the Harbor](#)
 - ◆ [Make an impact](#) activity

Additional Resources Continued

Reflection Questions can be presented in different ways depending on grade level and ability. Platforms that can be used are Padlet and Jamboard.

Reflection Questions:

- 1) What might humans be able to do in the future to deal with environmental catastrophes?
- 2) Should governments be solely responsible for protecting the environment?
- 3) What strategies are helping to improve the environment that we live in?

Additional Resources

- Watch Floods Ravage Northern California and Severe Droughts Strike California videos which contrast the drastic weather patterns in California.
 - ◆ How has the population growth and expansion of cities contributed to the negative effects of these patterns of nature?
- Earth Hour took place on March 25. Discuss if this type of social action has a positive effect on environmental change.
 - ◆ MLB Sustainability Challenge: Mets
 - ◆ Studio: Protecting Natural Resources: Z Chart Student Activity 3-5

Planting a Greener Future



Read the Tablet Jr. article as a class.

Essential Question: Does deforestation contribute to climate change?

DE: Flowers Fight Deforestation

Video Description: Learn how Projects Abroad is attempting to counter deforestation by helping farmers grow profitable-flower crops instead of unprofitable grains.

Activities

- DE: World Leaders Vow to End Deforestation by 2030
 - ◆ Human Impact on Natural Resources: Flip Flop Student Activity 6-8 Studio
 - ◆ Create a Waste Journal
- But Why Podcast: What is Climate Change?
 - ◆ Podcast activity
 - ◆ Calculate how much water is being used in your school
 - ◆ Create a Public Service Announcement encourage others to save water and share it with your school community
- Freckle: Deforestation Article
 - ◆ Jamboard Discussion Questions
 - ◆ Kahoot!: Impacts of Deforestation

Additional Resources Continued

Reflection Questions can be presented in different ways depending on grade level and ability. Platforms that can be used are Padlet and Jamboard.

Reflection Questions:

- 1) What danger does our country pose to the global environment?
- 2) Identify countries where leaders care about the environment? Describe the efforts of one of these countries.
- 3) What is our duty as custodians of the environment?

Additional Resources

- Read about The Earth Bill. Is the U.S. doing enough to protect our environment?
 - ◆ Kids of Integrity Lesson Plan
- Kids Corner: Sorting Our Garbage Video
 - ◆ Pick one way you can help the environment from the Project Living Kids website
- The Wild Center's Nature Lab
 - ◆ What challenges do Trees face?
Activity
- YouTube: Create reusable paper
 - ◆ Research other materials that can be made and be reusable

Sister Elizabeth

Together as a class, read the questions and answers from Sr. Elizabeth.



Questions from kids like you!

This month we celebrate everything God has created. The list below highlights meditation prayer and thanking God for the gifts he has given us.

→ Read Psalm 8:1-9

- ◆ What does it mean to “hold dominion” over the earth?
- ◆ Write a prayer to thank God for the honor of being stewards of his wonderful creation. Thank Him for your clean water supply and for a reliable source of electricity. Thank Him, too, for allowing you to live in a land of plenty and ask Him to teach you not to be wasteful or thoughtless in the way you use your resources and treat the environment.

Diocesan History Corner



Father Jim O'Shea at living wall

Activities

- Read Our Common Home from the Vatican
 - ◆ Create an infographic about how to pray through meditation, mindful thinking, and one specific intention.
- There are over 550 community gardens in New York City. Read about the history of these dedicated plots of land.
 - ◆ Why are community gardens important?
 - ◆ Can you locate a community garden near your school?
- The Thomas Berry Place installed solar panels. Research government programs that make it easier for people to get the financial and expert help they need to install solar panels on their homes.
 - ◆ Draw a design of where your school might place solar panels to get the best energy.

Sadlier



St. Isidore

Activities

Part of our Catholic faith is learning to live out our faith to the world. Our guidelines are called Catholic Social Teachings, a foundation for life that is rooted in Scripture.

Following in the footsteps of Jesus and living your life with love, peace, and justice can seem overwhelming. By focusing on one of the Catholic Social Teachings at a time, you will live more like Jesus each day. Be the Great Person that God created you to be.

- Celebrate being a Steward of God's Creation with this prayer service. Decorate the prayer table with symbols of creation.
- Read the story of Creation from the Book of Genesis. God made everything. God's wonderful creations, like light and water, help us to survive and grow. God's creation brings us joy, like a beautiful sunrise or a walk in the park. Reflect on the Creation reading by completing the Creation Sensory activity. (PreK - 2)