

Explore Your Community Worksheet: Schools



a program of the Jane Goodall Institute

The following questions are designed to build the awareness of your students and help them identify issues and challenges to people, animals and the environment at school. Work with your younger students to find the answers and record the results for them. Have older students complete the questions independently or in small groups and share the answers at the end. Adapt the survey to meet the specific needs of your group.

Animals

Go outside with your students to answer the following questions:

1. List any wildlife that you can see or hear in the area.

Insects	Amphibians	Reptiles	Mammals	Birds

2. Describe the areas in which you see the wildlife (i.e. wooded area, garden, lawn).

3. Look for signs of animals/wildlife (i.e., tracks, scat, hair or feathers, scratch marks on trees, nests, dens, etc.). Record what you find. Based on these findings, what other animals may be in the area that you can't see right now (use a field guide if you need assistance). Make a list of these animals.

4. What type of habitats can you see (i.e., trees, hibernacula, ponds, meadows, etc.)?

5. If you don't see any wildlife or signs of wildlife, consider why (i.e., the school ground is covered in asphalt).

6. Is there anything you can see, hear or smell in the area that could harm wildlife (i.e. roads, pesticides, pets, air pollution, fences, traps, etc.)?

7. List any endangered species that you know about in the area.

People

Think about your class or school as you answer the following questions:

1. Are there any students or families whose basic needs are not met (i.e., not enough food or clothing)?

2. Is everyone treated the same way? Why or why not?

3. Is there anyone you don't talk to? Why?

4. What things do you do to help people in your class or school?

5. How could you help each other more?

6. Is your school wheelchair/walker/stroller accessible?

7. Is your school accessible to visually impaired people? Are guide dogs allowed in the building?

Environment

Go outside with your students to answer the following questions:

1. Do you see any trees, meadows, ponds or other natural areas?

2. What is your area like (warm/cold, windy/sheltered, quiet/noisy, nice smells)? Why?

3. Are pesticides used on the lawn and/or vegetation at your home or school? If so, what happens to those chemicals when it rains?

4. Find the storm drains near your school. What types of materials are around them (i.e., leaves, garbage, etc.)? Do people dump things into them? If so, what?

Back inside: find the answers to the following questions:

5. If tissues and paper towels are used in your classroom, are they recycled? Is there a way to reduce the number of tissues or paper towels used in your class?

6. Are the lights in the school energy efficient?

7. What do you see in the garbage? Make a list.

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8. Where does the garbage go after it leaves your classroom? Where does it go after that? After that?

9. Do students in your class bring their lunch with them to school? If so, do they use reusable containers to transport their food?

10. Is there a recycling bin in your room? List the items that can be recycled in your area.

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11. What happens to the recycling after it leaves your classroom?

12. Is there a compost bin at your school?

13. What happens to the compost?

Talk to students in your class or at your school to find the answers to the following questions:

14. How many students walk, ride their bike, carpool or ride alone in a car to and from school?

Walk	Bike	Bus	Car

15. Do the people who drive to school live close enough to walk or ride their bikes?
