

Title:

TreeTender Guided Film Discussion

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Abstract:

In the film Tree Tender, Gaia, the main tree tender in the film, learns about the importance of the Tree of Life to represent the ancestry and relationships between all life that ever existed. In better understanding these relationships, we can better assess where our attention must be directed to slow the loss of biodiversity caused by humans. Students will break into small groups to discuss what they learned from the film, how our actions affect the planet, and what we can do to become stewards to the planet. This uses pedagogy like Open-Ended Instruction, Experiential Learning, and Co-operative Learning to discuss ecological concepts like the Anthropocene Extinction and biodiversity loss, natural history, the use of the Tree of Life, and ecosystem services we rely on.

Learning objectives:

At the end of this guided discussion, students will be able to:

- Understand the importance of the Tree of Life
- Understand Ecosystem Services we benefit from
- Connect the events from Tree Tender to events in their daily life
- Think critically about their actions and effects on other species and the planet
- Brainstorm with their peers on solutions to environmental problems on our planet

Timeframe:

Instructor preparation should take no more than 30 minutes. Watching Tree Tender takes about 15 minutes. Guided Discussion should take about 30 minutes.

List of materials:

Supplemental Guided Discussion Worksheet

Large Sheet of paper or poster board

Markers

Procedure and general instructions (for instructor).

- Begin by asking students to review the events of the film.
- Divide students into groups of 4-5 to brainstorm on their own for a few minutes to answer the questions on the Supplemental Worksheet, using examples from the film or what they've witnessed in their daily lives.
- Come together as a whole class to discuss the students' answers together
- On a large sheet of paper or poster board, write down what the students come up with to help slow the loss of biodiversity (Question #5)

- Hang the paper where students can see and be reminded of how to be a Tree Tender!
- Younger ages: discuss the same questions and create a poster as a class without breaking into groups

Procedure and general instructions (for students).

After watching Tree Tender, come together as a small group of 4-5 students and answer the questions on the Guided Discussion worksheet using examples from the film and from your experiences to help with your answers. Then, come together as a class to discuss the answers to all questions, and make a poster using answers to question #5 as a classroom reminder on how to be a Tree Tender and help the planet in your daily life.

Reference

Tree Tender. (2017). Retrieved May 9, 2018, from <https://www.treetender.org>