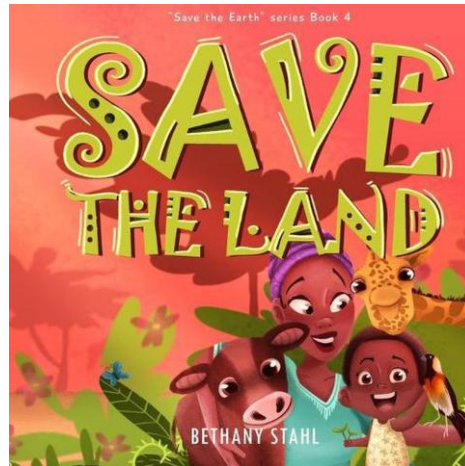


'Save the Land' Lesson Plan



Suggested NSW Syllabus Outcomes

ST2-4LW-S compares features and characteristics of living and non-living things

GE2-2 describes the ways people, places and environments interact

GE3-2 explains interactions and connections between people, places and environments

Sustainability in Schools Organising Ideas: 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9

Suggested NSW Syllabus Content

- describe how living things depend on each other and the environment to survive (ACSSU073)
- develop a design solution for an identified need or opportunity, using a variety of tools and materials that considers factors such as sustainability and time (ACTDEK010)
- explanation of the importance of natural vegetation to animals and the functioning of the environment eg provision of habitats, production of oxygen (ACHASSK088)
- identification of ways people influence places and contribute to sustainability eg roads and services, building development applications, local sustainability initiatives (ACHASSK112)

Goal

Read "Save the Land" by Bethany Stahl and learn about the Great Green Wall in Africa.

Resources

- 'Save the Land' by Bethany Stahl
 - [Watch on YouTube](#)
 - [Buy on Amazon \(Amazon Affiliate Link\)](#)
 - [Visit Bethany Stahl's website](#)

Background information

The Great Green Wall is an environmental movement which aims to grow an 8,000km natural barrier across the continent of Africa to stop the expansion of the Sahara desert. In today's lesson, we are going to listen to a story about Amari, a little girl who helps her mum make this grand vision become a reality.

** Read or watch "Save the Land" here **

In the 1970's, vast areas of the Sahel were transformed from rich and fertile region which supported millions of people to a dry and barren landscape. Climate change, population growth and unsustainable land management practices led to its rapid decline in just a few short years. As a result of the expansion of the Sahara desert and the degradation of the land, there was not enough productive land to grow food or sustain a decent standard of living. Over the years, this has led to severe food and water shortages, conflicts over declining natural resources, mass unemployment and the forced migration of millions of people.

In the 1980's, the vision was born and has been gaining momentum ever since. Since 2007, people across the continent of Africa have been planting trees in a region known as the Sahel. There are so many benefits that the project will bring to the people of Africa, including increased food and water security for millions that go hungry every day, increased health and wellbeing for the world's poorest communities, increased opportunities for girls and women and increased resilience to climate change (see <https://www.greatgreenwall.org/about-great-green-wall> for the full list of benefits). The Great Green Wall is expected to be completed by 2030.

Activities

1. Read or watch "Save the Land" by Bethany Stahl
2. Discuss the problem of desertification in the Sahel and the Great Green Wall project
3. Answer the questions about "Save the Land" below

Literal Questions

1. What does Amari love to play?

Suggested answer: Amari loves to play soccer.

2. What is the Sahel?

Suggested answer: The Sahel is the land that divides the Sahara in the north from the Savannah in the south.

3. What are the consequences of the desert growing and the wind?

Suggested answer: The growing desert and wind make it hard for plants to grow.

4. How do the trees help slow down the spread of the desert?

Suggested answer: The trees slow the spread of the desert by slowing down the wind and keeping nutrients in the soil.

The WildLife Movement

5. What happened when the seedlings grew into trees?

Suggested answer: When the seedlings grew into trees, the sand became soil and other plants and food began to grow. As a result, the animals came back into the area.

Inferential Questions

3. Where did the trees come from?

Suggested answer: The trees were planted there by the people who live in the villages.

7. Why did the animals come back to the Sahel?

Suggested answer: The trees and plants that grew provided habitat and food for the animals.

Applied Questions

8. Why did Momma make a hole in the ground for Amari's seedling?

Suggested answers: Momma made a hole for Amari to plant the roots of the seedling in. / The roots of the seedling need to be planted under the ground to get nutrients from the sand and soil.

9. Why is it important that the trees help keep nutrients in the ground?

Suggested answer: With more nutrients in the ground, more plants will be able to grow in the area to act as food for people and food and habitat for animals that live in the Sahel.

Extension Activities

* Note: These extension activities can help differentiate the lesson or provide students with additional activities to complete to lengthen this unit.

1. Research the Great Green Wall and make a list of all of the benefits that it will bring to the Sahel and the people of Africa.
2. Calculate how long the Great Green Wall will be when it is complete. Compare this to the size of the Great Barrier Reef, the world's largest living structure.