Lesson Plan Summary

Magic Tree House #33: Narwhal on a Sunny Night

“Thank You, Mother Earth”

Friendly Letter Writing using Narwhal on a Sunny Night

EACH STUDENT WILL:

- Read about the land, animals and people of the Arctic Circle in Narwhal on a Sunny Night
- Refer to Narwhals and Other Whales Fact Tracker for additional information
- View short video clips of the reading of Dear Mother Earth by Schim Schimmel
- Pre-write a letter to Mother Earth using a cloze letter writing frame.
- Write a final draft of the cloze letter-writing activity
- Use the five parts of a friendly letter

COMMON CORE STANDARDS ADDRESSED:

READING:
- KEY IDEAS AND DETAILS (RI1.1, RI2.1, RI3.1, RI4.1)
  Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text. (RI2.1)
- CRAFT AND STRUCTURE (RI1.4, RI2.4, RI3.4, RI4.4, RI5.4)
  Determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text relevant to grade specific topic or subject area (RI2.4)

WRITING:
- PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF WRITING (W1.5, W2.5, W3.5)
  With guidance and support from adults and peers, focus on a topic and strengthen writing as needed by revising and editing (W2.5)
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MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Copies of Narwhal on a Sunny Night
- Narwhals and Other Whales Fact Tracker (For additional information)
- Thank you letter to Mother Earth – one copy for each student (in Appendix)
- Arctic Circle Info graphic reference sheet (in Appendix)
- Dear Children of the Earth by Schim Schimmel or a reading of the book on video links.

PROCEDURE:

1. After reading Narwhal on a Sunny Night, discuss how Jack and Annie solved the riddle which was looking for a “word that will glow and unite worlds”. They discovered that the word was “thank you”.

2. It is now the students’ turn to say “thank you”. They will write a letter to Mother Earth to say thank you for the beautiful land, animals and people in the Arctic Circle.

Jack and Annie discovered the beauty of the Arctic and learned the importance of the words “thank you”. Now it’s the students’ turn to write a letter and give thanks to Mother Earth for the beauty of the Arctic and its inhabitants.
3. As an anticipatory set to their upcoming letter-writing activity, read the picture book *Dear Children of the Earth* by Shim Schimmel or show the students a reading of it on one of the following links. This book is a letter from Mother Earth to the reader.

Schim Schimmel, the author, takes you into his studio and reads his book on Earth Day. His message is the same as what Jack and Annie learned; human beings and animals on this earth are all interconnected and we must take care of one another.


A young girl’s interpretive reading of Dear Children of the Earth.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJSOp9i4htA

4. The students fill in one of the friendly letter frames in the appendix.

5. Share the Arctic Circle Infographic with them to review the vocabulary necessary to fill in the cloze activity.

6. The blank letter frame can be used for a final copy to the cloze activity. It could also be used for an original letter to Mother Earth in lieu of the cloze activity.
Appendix

- Friendly Letter - cloze activity (nouns)
- Friendly Letter - cloze activity (nouns and reasons)
- Friendly letter writing paper (frame with the 5 parts of a friendly letter)
- Writing paper
- Arctic Circle Info graphic
Dear Mother Earth,

Thank you for the beauty of the Arctic land. I like the ____________________________
___________________________, _____________________________, and
___________________________.

Thank you for the special animals. I like the ____________________________
___________________________, _____________________________, and
___________________________.

Thank you for the people of the Arctic. The indigenous people are the
___________________________ . Two groups of people who study the animals are called
___________________________ and _____________________________.

I will show my thanks to you, Mother Earth, by ____________________________
___________________________.

From a child of the earth,

___________________________
Dear Mother Earth,

Thank you for the splendor of the Arctic land. I especially like ___________________________ because ________________________________________________________________.

Thank you for the interesting animals. One of my favorite ocean mammals is the _______________ because ________________________________________________________________.

An interesting land animal is the __________________________ because _______________ ________________________________________________________________.

Thank you for the people of the Arctic. They are special because ________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

I am going to research more about ____________________________________________________.

I wonder ____________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

Thank you from a child of the Earth,
**LAND AND CLIMATE**

- Arctic Circle – cold, barren, icy
- Land of the Midnight Sun
- Glaciers, ice floes, icebergs
- Coldest weather is about -22 to 5 degrees F (Sadly, it keeps getting warmer because of climate change)

**ANIMALS**

- *Whales*
  - Orca
  - Beluga
  - Minke
  - Narwhal

- *Land and Sea*
  - Walrus
  - Ice Seal
  - Polar Bear
  - Reindeer
  - Arctic Hare
  - Arctic Fox

**PEOPLE**

- *Explorers*
  - The Vikings: Erik the Red, Leif Erikson
  - European: Knud Rasmussen

- *Indigenous*
  - Inuit People

- *Scientists and Researchers Today*

**WAYS TO HELP MOTHER EARTH** – plant a tree, pick up trash...

**FURTHER RESEARCH IDEAS** – Climate change, Life in the Arctic, Why is it called the Land of the Midnight Sun?