



High School Science Virtual Learning

Environmental Science

Environmental Legislation (part 1)

May 19, 2020



High School Environmental Science

Lesson: May 19, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

Students will learn about various environmental related legislations.



Let's Get Started:

1. What is conservation?
2. Why is conservation important?



Let's Get Started: **Answer Key**

1. Conservation is the study of the loss of Earth's biodiversity, and how that loss can be prevented.
2. Conservation is important to maintain biodiversity and proper functioning of ecosystems. Destruction of any one part of a food web can affect many other components.



Lesson Activity:

Directions:

1. Research the given legislation (see the following slides) and answer the questions listed.
2. Create a poster or flyer about the legislation. Include pictures that provide a visual representation of some aspect of the legislation.



Practice

Complete the following questions using the information you learned during the lesson activity.



Legislation #1: Endangered Species Act

Questions:

1. In what year was this law first enacted?
2. What events or situations led to the enactment of this law?
3. What controversy, if any, is or was connected to this law?
4. What is the basic premise of this law?
5. What impacts has this law had? *In addition to discussing this from a broad sense, include at least once specific example.*

see sample flyer on the last slide



Answers

Legislation #1: Endangered Species Act

1. 1973
2. Oil spills and realization we were seeing mass extinctions
3. Many farmers disagree saying it allows wildlife to roam free and hunt their livestock, government is considering adding economics into consideration for species to remain on the list
4. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) provides a program for the conservation of threatened and endangered plants and animals and the habitats in which they are found.
5. The ESA has prevented the extinction of many species on the list, including bald eagles. 95% of species on the list are still present and hundreds are on their way to recovery.

see sample flyer on the last slide



More Practice: Legislation #2: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Animals (CITES)

Questions:

1. In what year was this law first enacted?
2. What events or situations led to the enactment of this law?
3. What controversy, if any, is or was connected to this law?
4. What is the basic premise of this law?
5. What impacts has this law had? *In addition to discussing this from a broad sense, include at least once specific example.*

see sample flyer on the last slide



Answers

Legislation #2: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Animals (CITES)

1. July 1 1975
2. International wildlife trade is a multi-billion-dollar-a-year industry with hundreds of millions of plants and animals traded annually. Most trade is legal; however, some involves the trade of endangered plants or animals or products derived from them. CITED was developed to protect endangered species.
3. Critics say placing species on the CITES list increases their value which increases rates of poaching & illegal sale, it doesn't address loss of habitat, and is hard to regulate since it is international.
4. CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.
5. Relatively few species out of the tens of thousands of species that have been listed in CITES over the past 35 years have become extinct in the wild due to regulation of trade.

see sample flyer on the last slide



Additional Practice, Legislation #3: Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)

Questions:

1. In what year was this law first enacted? When was it revised?
2. What events or situations led to the enactment of this law?
3. What controversy, if any, is or was connected to this law?
4. What is the basic premise of this law?
5. What impacts has this law had? *In addition to discussing this from a broad sense, include at least once specific example.*

see sample flyer on the last slide



Answers

Legislation #3: Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)

1. Enacted 1947, greatly revised 1972 and 1996
2. Congress passed the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act in 1947 to address some of the shortcomings of the Federal Insecticide Act making stronger regulation of pesticides (considered poisons).
3. The poor enforcement of FIFRA is the major controversy and includes things like: extensive use of special exemptions from product registration requirements, drawn out administrative safety reviews, inadequate applicator training and certification, major use problems that result in contamination.
4. FIFRA requires testing of pesticides to ensure their safety for use, require all pesticides to be registered with the Federal Government, and to ensure that all pesticides are 100 percent safe for the environment.
5. Some regulated pesticide exposures have improved, but there is a constant influx of new pesticides or pesticides that are already approved being used for non-approved means, so chemical exposure for humans is actually increasing, prompting the discussion of another revision of the law.

see sample flyer on the last slide

Answers: Students will research each law and find answers to all questions to put on a poster or flyer. This can be done digitally or on paper.

See example flyer to the right:

Sample source:
[Clean Air Act Resources](#)

CLEAN AIR ACT

The **Clean Air Act** is a United States federal law designed to control air pollution on a national level. It requires the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** to develop and enforce regulations to protect the public from airborne contaminants known to be hazardous to human health.

Since 1970:



Emissions of 6 Common
 Pollutants has decreased

72%



1/5 of all
**Greenhouse Gas
 Emissions in 2012**
 were industrial.



**\$2 TRILLION
 SAVED**
 by 2020 due to air
 quality improvements

