

Iowa's Environmental Stewards

Grade: Fifth through Eighth Grades

Subject: Science, Language Arts

Objectives: Realize it is everyone's responsibility to care for the environment.

Standards:

Explains conservation and the effects of pollution and waste.

Identifies and hypothesizes how changes in the ecosystem affect Earth and society.

Interprets environmental factors that impact the ecosystem.

Procedure:

Introduce video: The video highlights how Iowa cattle producers care for the environment. It shows how two Iowa producers make a living from the land and in return strive to disturb the land as little as possible. The two families featured in the video have received national awards for their environmental stewardship efforts.

Have students create a vocabulary list and definitions to words used in the video. For example:

Environmental Stewardship: The proactive approach of conserving and protecting the environment.

Conservation: The preservation and careful management of the environment and of natural resources.

Ruminant: Any of various hooved, even-toed, usually horned mammals such as cattle, sheep, goats, deer, and giraffe. Characteristically having a stomach divided into four compartments and chewing a cud consisting of regurgitated, partially digested food.

Terraces: Ridges that form "stair steps" around a hill to prevent water and soil from running downhill.

Erosion: Condition in which the earth's surface is worn away by the action of water and wind.

After the video, use these questions for discussion:

1. Why is protecting the land important for farmers?
2. Why are cattle referred to as "recyclers"?
3. Why do producers practice rotational grazing?
4. What does environmental stewardship mean to you?

Additional Resources:

Water Conservation and Soil Conservation Issue Fact Sheets. Contact the Iowa Ag Awareness Coalition at www.agaware.org for ordering information.

Earth Friendly Agriculture. The worksheet is available from the Iowa Soybean Association. Contact Amanda Wall at 515-251-8640.

