

Gratitude for Earth - Children

This guide contains many resources. We recognize that every community's needs are different, so feel free to pick and choose what works best for you.

Preparation

Gather a book (see options below) and other materials suited to the activities you choose, like a physical puzzle or craft materials. Explore the Other Resources (below) for more opportunities.

Read guidance for [Wondering with Children](#).

Gathering (Building the community/circle)

Choose a question related to the topic like below, or a song, or do a check-in (pluses and minutes, roses and thorns) to help welcome everyone into the space.

- What's an animal or plant that you have a partnership with? What do you receive and what do you give?
- What is a place in nature that you love?

For a more hands-on gathering, have the children go outside and find an object that they love in nature, or that connects to a wonderful experience they had outside. As a gathering, they can share the object and why they chose it.

Introduction

In a garden, we see the partnership between soil and seed. The soil nourishes the seed, and as the seed grows, its roots hold the soil in place and protects the soil from the sun. One is not better than the other. Many of the women who partner with Right Sharing of World Resources are farmers. They understand the importance of the soil and the seed. Can we live in healthy interdependence with nature in the same manner that seed partners with soil?

Possible hands-on activities that can be done during reading

Drawing - If you want to suggest possible themes, it might be to draw a place outside that you love

Coloring pages - Such as animals and plants and landscapes

Play-Doh

Pipe cleaners

Read a book (suggestions below)

[Giving Thanks by Chief Jake Swamp](#) ([read aloud](#))

[Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa by Jeanette Winter](#) ([read aloud](#))

[The Lorax by Dr. Seuss](#) ([read aloud](#))

[The Curious Garden by Peter Brown](#) ([read aloud](#))

[Grandad's Prayers of the Earth by Douglas Wood](#) ([read aloud](#))

[Harlem Grown by Tony Hillery](#) ([read aloud](#))

Wondering Questions for during and after the reading

I wonder what part of the story you like best?

I wonder what part is the most important for you today?

I wonder where you are in the story or what part of the story is about you?

I wonder if there is any part of the story that we can leave out and still have all the story we need?

I wonder...

Reflection

Choose a question to respond to that's connected to the theme:

What's something I can do to care for a place in nature that I love?

How do I feel when I am outside in a garden or park?

Other Resources / Extending the Lesson

Scripture Verses, Quotes, and Media

"But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind."

Job 12:7-10

[A Place in the Choir](#) (song)

[Waltzing with Bears](#) (song)

[Harlem Grown Curriculum Guide](#)

Games and Activities

Recite or write an animal diary - Imagine what it might be like to be a favorite animal, and say or write about an experience you can imagine the animal having.

Empathy Map - Complete [an empathy map](#) by drawing a non-human creature of your choice in the middle and then drawing and/or writing words to describe what they see, hear, think and feel over the course of a day in their life.

An animal in your life - Think of an animal that you occasionally interact with, whether you drive by cows on a farm, see robins resting on a tree limb, or witness chipmunks frolicking in the grass. Talk, think, or write about the joys and challenges the animal might face. How might we help out with the challenges?

For more activities, check out Quaker Earthcare Witness' [Earthcare for Children Curriculum](#)