

AP Environmental Sciences Summer Assignment List

Hello everyone and welcome to AP Environmental Sciences! Together, we will use a scientific lens to learn about human environmental impacts, our local community, and how the two are related. This summer we have a few assignments to jump start our exciting and eventful year learning about the environment.

Assignment 1: Nature Journal

Description: You must spend 15 minutes per week outside making active observations. Afterwards, spend some time reflecting on what you saw, heard, smelled, and felt. Then, write, draw, type, or glue memorabilia from your experience to a journal page. By the end of the summer, you should have a completed journal with at least 8 journal entries, feel free to add more if you are so inspired.

Assignment 2: Current Event

Description: Every day there are many current events relating to environmental sciences in the media, choose one current event for this assignment. Your task is to read an article or watch a video clip about this current event related to environmental sciences (i.e. extinctions, deforestation, health scares, pollution, green energy, farming). Then, write a 1-page synopsis including what the event is, who it affects, when it happened/is happening, where it happened/is happening, and what we are doing about it (sadly, this may be nothing).

I have attached a few examples of each assignment. Do not forget to give yourself some time to enjoy yourself this summer.

Sample Current Event

Event Title: Flint Michigan Water Crisis

Date: May 6, 2016

Location: Flint, Michigan

Who was affected:

The residents of Flint, Michigan no longer have clean drinking water. Many government officials, including Governor Snyder, are being questioned about their involvement with the decision to switch from Detroit Water and Sewage Department to the Flint River.

What happened:

On December 14, 2015, Flint, Michigan declared a state of emergency because of reports showing high levels of lead in the city's drinking water. The use of contaminated water comes from a decision made by city officials to switch water sources from Detroit Water and Sewage District to the Flint River. City officials chose to switch water sources in an effort to save the city money. Before Flint switched over to the Flint River, multiple water quality tests showed high levels of fecal bacteria that would be hazardous to citizens' health. Failure of officials to act, has resulted in many Flint residents being poisoned by their own tap water.

What are we doing about it:

Now, non-profit organizations and the federal government are offering assistance to Flint residents, and citizens of Flint have filed a lawsuit against local and state government officials for endangerment to their health. On May 4, President Obama visited Flint, Michigan to investigate the severity of the situation, and Mike Glasgow, a Flint city employee, reached a plea of no contest to willful neglect of duty.

Source(s):

"Flint Water Crisis Fast Facts." CNN Library. May 5, 2016. Electronic article. May 10, 2016. <<http://www.cnn.com/2016/03/04/us/flint-water-crisis-fast-facts/>>.

Sample Journal Entries

May 3rd, 2016

I just spent the day at the beach enjoying the sun and the fresh ocean air. I love the feeling of the sand between my toes while looking out over the ocean. It is amazing how big the ocean is. I noticed that after a while the tide started to come up the beach. Why do we have tides? How exactly do tides work? When I was swimming, I noticed the water was warmer than it is in the winter. That was nice because usually we cannot swim in the winter because it is way too cold! I like how the waves crash on the ~~ocean~~ beach and drag the sand out to the sea. It is also fun to watch the sand crabs race back to the sand after a big wave comes to try to sweep them

May 10th, 2016

Today, I spent the morning sitting in my mom's garden. I noticed that the tomato plant had a new flower on it and some of the fruits were just starting to turn red. I can hardly wait until they are ripe and I can eat one for dinner. I also heard two birds singing to each other. One was a gray-ish, brown color while the other was black and yellow. The color of the yellow birds' chest was so bright, I bet you could see it from a mile away! After about 5 minutes outside I noticed the warmth of the sun and realized this was the first sunny day of the week. Maybe, I can find some friends to go down to the beach with so we can enjoy the sunshine. Summer is such a great time to enjoy the outdoors. What a beautiful

May 16th, 2016

Today I found this cool leaf on a plant as I walked down the street to the park. I think it is pretty because it is half red and half green. I wonder why it has red unlike many other plants that just have green leaves. Maybe it helps protect the leaf from the sun? Or maybe it is to attract pollinators that like the color red? I like the color red because it reminds me of my brother. His favorite color is red. Anyway, once I got to the park, I layed on the grass for a while. I noticed the clouds in the sky and the way they moved. It made me feel like I was moving even though I was laying down. The clouds are cool when they swirl.