

The Environmental Justice Sub-Committee of CASJ Presents Two Earth Day activities for BC teachers:

## **Activity 1**

### **EarthDayPOSTCARDActivityGrades1 - 12**

Students write a postcard to the Federal Minister of Environment & Climate Change.

Be brief & respectful, that's the best way to be listened to.

*Don't forget to send them!* (No stamp is required to send letters to Parliament.)

- Use resources below to inform & inspire students before they start the postcard.
- On the postcard, include student first name, teacher name, school, community.
- On the reverse of the postcard, students do art to match their comments.

**1. Preparing postcards: Print Page 2 of this PDF single-sided (two postcards per sheet). Photocopy as many one-sided sheets as required & cut each page in half.**

**2. Start the postcard activity with a lesson from this resource list:**

**A. K-12 Sierra Club Learn to Draw Videos on BC Endangered Species**

<https://sierraclub.bc.ca/learn-to-draw-b-c-wildlife-art-lesson-series-with-julius-csotonyi-webinar/> Use these free 1 hour video lessons to come up with written & artistic content for the postcard. Videos are science based, easy to follow (pause them) & include Indigenous content. There are many animals: spotted owls, mountain caribou, orcas, octopus, etc.

**B. K-12 CBEEN (Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network)**

<https://cbeen.ca/wild-voices-online/> - great video recordings about nature to share with your class for Earth Day.

**C. Grades 6-12 How to Change Everything:** Play the 4 minute audio excerpt from "How to Change Everything, Naomi Klein's book to inspire youth to engage in climate action. Then in your class discuss how ideas for their postcard to engage government. <https://soundcloud.com/simonschuster/how-to-change-everything>

**D. Grades 6 to 12: Watch "A Message from the Future",** Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez gives a brief history of the climate crisis, and what we could choose to do about it, if only we have the political will. Put ideas on how the government must take action on the postcard. <https://youtu.be/d9uTH0iprVQ>

**3. Mail postcards!**

No Stamp  
Necessary

Postage free  
to Parliament

To: \_\_\_\_\_

**Environment Minister  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6**

No Stamp  
Necessary

Postage free  
to Parliament

To: \_\_\_\_\_

**Environment Minister  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6**

## **Activity 2**

### **Earth Day Less is More Clothing Challenge 1-12**

**Earth Day Activity Poster on next page (page 4).**

A. Start lesson by brainstorming how the clothing industry contributes to climate change & environmental degradation (deforestation, air/water/soil pollution).

B. Discuss wants versus needs and consumerism. Buying only what we need and then doing what we can to make our clothes last as long as possible helps conserve habitat for other living things.

C. Watch the Ted Ed Lifecycle of a T-shirt video:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BiSYoeqb\\_VY&vl=en](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BiSYoeqb_VY&vl=en)

D. Assign students to come on Earth Day wearing items that have been in their wardrobe a long time because they have been repaired, are hand me downs, remodeled, or bought second hand.

E. On Earth Day have students share the story of their garments and review how we need to buy only what we need, and then treat them well so they last a long time.

# EARTH DAY

## LESS IS MORE

START LESSON BY WATCHING TED-ED LIFECYCLE OF A T-SHIRT



**BUYING LESS STUFF LEAVES MORE OF THE  
PLANET FOR OTHER ANIMALS & PLANTS**

**ON EARTH DAY, WEAR ITEMS THAT HAVE BEEN REPAIRED, BOUGHT  
2ND HAND, OR ARE HAND ME DOWNS.**

**IN CLASS, SHARE WHAT YOU ARE WEARING TO SHOW HOW YOU BUY  
LESS, & CAN TAKE CARE OF WHAT YOU HAVE.**