



Total time

60 minutes

Age range

8-14 years



Artivism for Nature



Learning Objectives:

- I understand that nature is our life support system
- I understand what it means to be nature positive
- I can create a piece of activism to bring about change

Key words:

Nature positive, activism, nature loss, biodiversity, restore, regenerate and regrow

Lesson Overview:

In this creative activity, students understand their personal connection and dependence on nature. Students explore what it means to be nature positive and design a creative image of a tree, then upload it to www.artivismfornature.org as a demonstration of their commitment to being Nature Positive and wanting others to be too.

Before Starting:

- If possible, take your students on a nature walk outside
- If teaching online, ask children to identify any pieces of nature they can see outside their windows
- Or ask children to think back to their journey to school, can they estimate how many trees or plants they saw on their way?

Step 1: What Does Nature Mean to You? 5 mins

Begin the lesson by asking children to describe a piece of nature they are grateful for. Ask children to take turns to answer.

Step 2: What Does Nature Give Us? 10 mins

This activity can either be done as individuals or in small groups.

On a blank piece of paper, draw a rough outline of a tree on one side and on the other draw an outline of a person. Ask students to draw arrows from the tree to the human describing what nature gives the other person.

E.g food to eat, shelter, materials to build etc

Ask different groups or individuals to swap and share ideas.

Did this activity surprise any students at all? Are there any conclusions they can draw?

Step 3: Introducing Nature Positive 15 mins

Now talk to students about what they can give nature. Ask to share some ideas. Introduce the concept of Nature Positive. Ask children what might this phrase mean?

Watch this short film which introduces children to Nature Positive:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSy7SiSl6c4&feature=youtu.be>

After watching the film ask the following discussion questions:

- What risks are there if we are not Nature Positive?
- What might happen if we do nothing and do not become a Nature Positive planet?
- What might change locally if we were more Nature Positive?
- Can we identify any examples of how we haven't been Nature Positive in the past and what impact that might have on our community now? E.g. Removed trees by a river and now it floods more, used up green space to build new houses

Being Nature Positive means we need to think about nature as if it was another student in the classroom and take it in with all our decisions. As often our actions can have an impact on nature without us even stopping to realise it.

The action we are going to take today is trying to raise awareness about the importance of being Nature Positive and to do this, we are going to use our creativity for change!

Step 4: Introducing Artivism 10 mins

Art + Activism = Artivism

Using art to bring about social change or raise awareness about a topic.

Share a few examples from Appendix 1 with students. Ask each group to take a look at the pieces of art and decide:

- How does this piece of art make you feel?
- What do you think it is trying to say?
- What change does the piece of artivism want to make?
- Do you believe it is successful in trying to make change?

Explain that participating in the Artivism for Nature project, students trees will become part of a virtual forest, made up of artpieces from children and young people all around the world, as their commitment to being Nature Positive and wanting leaders to be too.

Step 5: Creating Our Own Art 30 mins

If possible, take students outside to draw their tree. Students can design their tree in any medium they want to. Take care to remind students that this does not need to be a realistic representation, it is their artwork which can tell their own story.

If outside, ask students to spend some time looking closely at the tree. If inside, ask students to close their eyes and picture an imaginary tree.

- What is your favourite part of the tree?
- How many branches can you notice on this tree? Are there lots or few?
- Are there any leaves? What shape are they?

Your tree pictures evoke a sense of deep care, respect and love for nature that is all around us.

Step 6: Upload & Reflection 10 mins

Next invite students to take a photo of their tree images and upload them to www.artivismfornature.org site. Click on the UPLOAD tab for children to share a photo of their tree drawings.

They will be invited to also write a 30 word message about what nature means to them.

Ask students to share their tree drawings with others and read aloud their Nature Positive statements.

Share your Artivism for Nature creations with us! Tag us [@TheWorldsLesson](https://www.instagram.com/TheWorldsLesson) across all social channels.

Activity 1: Examples of Artivism

Name: Sea Mural

Location: Mexico

Artist: Panagaseed

Artivism message: Using artivism to bring the ocean to landlocked Mexico City. The ocean is a source of food and natural resource that everyone is dependent on for living. This artwork highlights the duty of care we all have for the oceans wellbeing, whether located by an ocean or not, they are an integral part of our livelihoods and we must continue to take action for them.

Find Out More:

<https://www.pangeaseed.foundation/sea-walls/>



Activity 1: Examples of Activism

Name: Backpacks

Location: UN Building, New York

Artist: UNICEF

Artivism Message: UNICEF laid out 3,758 school backpacks outside the United Nations building in New York to show the scale of child deaths in conflict in 2018

Find Out More:

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/09/1045832>



Activity 1: Examples of Artivism

Name: The Ship of Tolerance

Location: USA, Cuba, UAE, Italy, Russia, London

Artist: Ilya and Emilia Kabakov Foundation and children from around the world

Artivism Message: The mission of the Ship of Tolerance is to educate and connect the youth of different continents, cultures, and identities through the language of art. It gives thousands of young people around the world the opportunity to create and celebrate a monumental accomplishment together. These paintings which come together as the ships sail are about tolerance, the arts, and what it means to respect other cultures.

Find Out More: <https://shipoftolerance.org/>



Activity 1: Examples of Artivism

Name: 1 Heart, 1 Tree

Location: Paris, France

Artist: Naziha Mestaoui

Artivism Message: This installation, in Paris during the climate conference in 2015 uses artivism to make what is invisible, visible. Using technology and nature, visitors are invited to create a digital tree that they see growing on buildings to the rhythm of their heart beat. Using a heartbeat sensor controlled by a mobile phone, the digital trees are then physically planted in Europe, Latin American, Africa or Asia signifying each viewer as a symbol of a positive future for the planet.

Find Out More:

<https://unfccc.int/news/when-art-and-technology-unite-for-climate-1-heart-1tree>



Activity 1: Examples of Activism

Name: Little Amal, The Walk

Location: Global

Artist: Good Chance Theatre and Amir Nizar Zuabi

Artivism Message:

In 2021, from the Syria-Turkey border all the way to the UK, The Walk will bring together celebrated artists, major cultural institutions, community groups and humanitarian organisations to create one of the most innovative and adventurous public artworks ever attempted. At the heart of The Walk is 'Little Amal', a 3.5 metre-tall puppet of a young refugee girl, created by the acclaimed Handspring Puppet Company. Representing all displaced children, many separated from their families, Little Amal will travel over 8,000km embodying the urgent message "Don't forget about us".

At this time of unprecedented global change, The Walk is an extraordinary artistic response: a cultural odyssey transcending borders, politics and language to tell a new story of shared humanity – and to ensure the world doesn't forget the millions of displaced children, each with their own story, who are more vulnerable than ever during the global pandemic.

Find Out More:

<https://www.walkwithamal.org/about-us/little-amal/>

