



Distance Learning Lessons

The *Panasonic Student Eco Citizenship Project* is a powerful tool that can support students both in and out of the classroom. As we adapt to an ever-evolving landscape, it is important to think about how you can use the project resources to successfully enrich the lives of your students.

We have created editable PDF versions of the student lessons that can be found at ecocitizenship.org. These lessons can be posted on Blackboard (or any other Learning Management System your district may use) and students can continue (or begin) their work from home. Below you will find highlights from each lesson to guide your students.

LESSON 1

This lesson teaches some valuable research skills that will benefit students throughout their entire school careers. When paired with the *Effective Online Research* lesson, found in the Teacher Resources section on the website, students will learn about and have the opportunity to practice conducting research online. In addition, the *Observing my Neighborhood* activity can turn a leisurely family walk into a rich learning experience!.

LESSON 2

In this lesson, students are meant to work within groups to reach consensus on a project goal. While students may be at home and unable to work in groups, they can practice the consensus building skill with their families. Families can have a great dinner conversation and students can share their research from Lesson 1. They can work with their families to choose a topic for the next lessons.

LESSON 3

Admittedly, this can be a tricky lesson to tackle as students are practicing social distancing. Encourage students to think creatively about projects that can be completed during this time that do not require working in groups or visiting sites outside their homes. Some ideas may include:

- **“Upcycling” old clothes from home:** Old clothes can be used to create dog toys, reusable shopping bags, cushion covers and a number of other items. Invite students to use the research skills from Lesson 1 to find directions for these, and other, upcycling ideas.
- **Letter campaigns:** Once students have selected a topic important to them, they can write letters to their local, state and national representatives to encourage legislation supporting that topic. Students can practice their literacy skills and learn about the legislative process.

- **Environmentally friendly cleaners:** Students can find a number of recipes online to create cleaning products that use natural products. During their time at home, students can put the products together and distribute them once they are able to fully return to their schools and communities.
- **Repurpose plastic products:** It is likely that students will have access to plenty of plastic waste during their time at home. These items can be used to create art projects at home that students can donate to various organizations in their organization to brighten their offices and other community space.

LESSON 4

Evaluating and reflecting on their work is always important for students. While they may not finish their projects at home, invite students to continually pause and reflect on their work and the skills they have acquired at any given point.

OTHER TIPS

1. Encourage students who are already working in groups together to exchange contact information. While they cannot work together in person, they can still stay in touch and discuss the work they have already done and what they have learned as a result.
2. If students have already selected a project goal and have begun working on the action plan in Lesson 2, have them revisit the plan now that circumstances have changed. Invite students to think about the challenges or obstacles they may now face. A valuable skill for students is learning to anticipate obstacles and making adjustments as needed. Give students an assignment to problem solve the obstacles and offer potential solutions as an assignment to complete at home.
3. If students are done with their projects and just need to complete the Eco Diary, remember that we can email you the Google Slide template that you can then send to students and have them complete it remotely. We invite you to still upload ONETOP ENTRY via ecocitizenship.org. All teachers who submit will be recognized and receive a gift card as a token of our thanks.
4. Even if you are not in a position to complete the projects, take the opportunity to reflect with students on the work done to this point. This is a defining moment for students and while they may be disappointed by the abrupt conclusion of the projects, you can help them understand how they benefited and what they learned from the time and work they have already invested. This is an wonderful opportunity to help shift perspective and teach students to find the positives, or “silver lining,” in any situation.
5. **If you have not begun work on the lessons and/or projects:** We encourage you to still consider starting at the beginning and having students complete the lessons at home. While the lessons are designed to be completed in groups, many of the activities will still be beneficial as students work individually from home. This program is flexible and adaptable. As we work together creatively, we will find many ways for you and your students to continue to rely on this valuable tool and the associated resources!

Have other tips or project ideas? Share them with us by emailing kim@fillprograms.org and we will share them in upcoming newsletters so that other teachers and students can benefit!