

Lesson Plan

Changes in the North

Book: *The Climate Crisis in the Northwest and Alaska*

Series: The Climate Crisis in America

Level: Navigator

Objective

To help students recall details from a text about the climate crisis in the Northwest and Alaska and use those details to write about the issue.

Supplies

- Several copies of *The Climate Crisis in the Northwest and Alaska*
- Whiteboard
- Dry erase marker
- Pencils and paper

Before the Activity

Read *The Climate Crisis in the Northwest and Alaska* out loud as a class, or assign it to students to read on their own.

Activity

The Climate Crisis in the Northwest and Alaska describes many ways in which climate change is affecting the region. Explain that students will be writing about several of these problems. As a class, brainstorm some of the issues facing the region. As students answer, write their ideas on the board.

examples: *heat waves, wildfires, bodies of water running low, harm to ocean animals, melting glaciers, more carbon in the atmosphere, flooding of coastal areas from melting, erosion, shifts to animal ecosystems*

Then, ask students to take out pencils and paper. They should each choose three of the problems brainstormed on the white board. Students will then write three paragraphs about problems facing the region. Each paragraph should focus on one of their chosen problems. Some descriptions may overlap. For example, students can include descriptions of heat waves as they talk about the problem of wildfires. Each paragraph should be at least five sentences long and include details from the book.

Evaluation

Could students recall information from the book about climate change issues facing the Northwest and Alaska? Could they use this information to write about the problems? Give students up to five points for each paragraph, for up to 15 points total.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational text, grades 4–7 (RI 4.1, 5.1 6.1, 7.1), and writing standards (W 4.2, 4.4, 4.8–9; 5.2, 5.4, 5.8–9; 6.2, 6.4, 6.9; 7.2, 7.4, 7.9).