

Environmental Conservation vs. Preservation

Grades: 3rd grade - 5th grade

NGSS: 4-ESS3-1, 5-ESS3-1

Materials: *Women in Botany/Las mujeres en la botánica* and cards

Skills: Critical thinking, comparing and contrasting, partner work, learning new vocabulary, sorting

Subject: Conservation and Preservation

BACKGROUND

When it comes to our future on this planet, many environmentalists look to conservation and preservation. Both are efforts to protect the environment and our natural resources, but conservation is made to regulate human use and damage of natural resources while preservation takes a more severe approach of removing human use entirely.



Conservation focuses on creating a balanced relationship between humans and nature, so that humans do not cause too much damage to the environment while still being able to use its resources. Preservation, on the other hand, removes the human from the equation to keep nature as it was and without any modifications from humans.

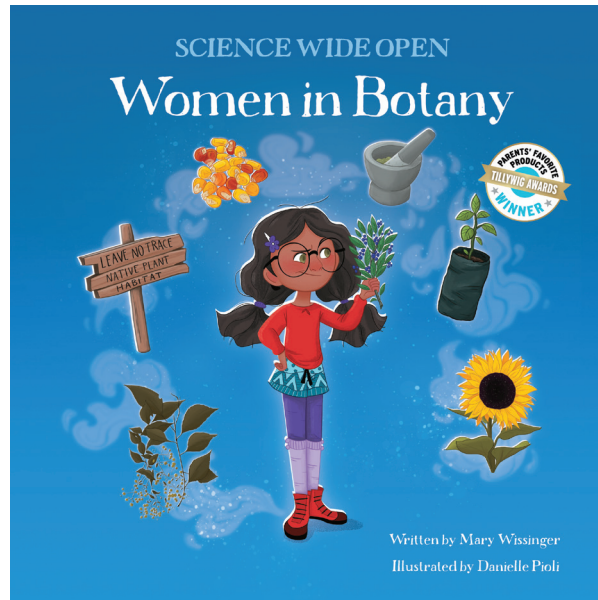
This activity lets the students realize the two different ways humans protect nature, and lets them see the distinction between these two tactics.

ACTIVITY

1. Cut out the cards along the dotted lines.
2. Divide class into groups, or have them find a partner if the class is small.
3. Tell your students the definition of conservation and preservation.
4. Give the students the cards that have listed examples of things done to protect the planet. Students must decide whether it is conservation or preservation. Allow them 5-10 minutes to sort the cards.
5. Once the students have finished sorting the cards, bring them back to go over the answers, and explain why each example is conservation or preservation.

DISCUSSION

What did you think of the differences between conservation and preservation? Which of these examples surprised you the most? Which one do you find more protective of the environment? Do you find one of these methods more productive and better? Why?



This activity was excerpted from the Teacher's Guide to:
Women in Botany / Las mujeres en botánica

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Environmental Conservation vs. Preservation Cards

Conservation:

Using our natural resources properly and not stripping our environment of its resources.

Preservation:

Protecting our natural resources from being overused and lost by prohibiting the use of it from humans.

Planting Trees

Panda Habitat

Creating a Nature Reserve

Hunting Restrictions

Recycling

Endangered Species Act

Sustainable Logging

Sectioning off a part of the forest from the public

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Answer Key

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