

Part B. Racing for Resources

In this activity, students become aware that they can make choices to make nature healthy.

Older Students: Divide the class into two teams (teams can choose a team name related to nature). Make two large circles on the ground with the pieces of rope and have all the students from each team step into their circle. The game is organized as a competition between team A and team B.

Tell students that the circles represent their planet Earth and all the natural resources. Explain that depending on the action on the card drawn, their Earth and the amount of nature on their Earth will either shrink or grow.

Start drawing from the Racing for Resources cards. Each time a card is drawn, have the students name why their Earth is growing (based on the action on the card) or why their Earth is shrinking. Ex. "our Earth will grow because we are not using as much energy."

The game is over when an "Earth" shrinks so much that all students from one team no longer fit.

Younger Students: Place a number of hula hoops on the ground (approx. one hoop for every 3 students). Hula hoops represent the natural resources available for all of the Earth's inhabitants.

Explain to students that they are all of the Earth's inhabitants and they can choose what they want to be (human, animal, plant, etc.). The object of the game is for them to get into the hula hoop before anyone else. Only three students can be in any one hula hoop. Tell them that the hula hoops are their homes, with everything they need to survive inside. They must make it to a hula hoop before all of the room is gone. If they don't make it, they don't survive (they must sit out).

Start the game. Once they are safely in their habitats, ask: "did everyone make it safely? Isn't the Earth a wonderful place? Lots of space and room for everyone!"

Now, draw a Racing for Resources card and read it to them. It'll be an example of a human action that depletes natural resources or is bad for the Earth. Once you have read the card, remove a hula hoop. Play again, and this time some students will not find room. They will sit off. Tell them, "Many animals have lost their habitats and cannot survive."

Continue the game in the same way until all cards have been read, removing a hula hoop each time.

When all cards have been read, ask students how it feels when habitats keep disappearing. Ask them to think of things that they might do to stop this from happening. Add a hoop with each idea.



Students in a "shrinking earth"
Photo: Chrissy Chabot