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PREFACE

From A to Z, *Community & Service Learning* presents high-interest activities to further students' understanding of themselves and the world around them. The collection of instructional tools, techniques, projects, and lessons has been designed to stretch the mind and increase problem-solving abilities while at the same time capturing and holding the students' interest and imagination.

Special features include activities:

- that use literature-based research for their design
- with established taxonomies and models for their organisational structure
- that focus on both directed and non-directed teaching methods for their delivery
- that provide options for both student reinforcement and enrichment for their implementation

Teachers will find extensive use of Bloom's Taxonomy of Cognitive Development, Williams' Taxonomy of Creative Thought, and Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences. Higher-order thinking skills and cooperative learning experiences have been infused throughout the book to add meaning and excitement to established curricula and/or exploratory and enrichment courses.

Finally, the book features a comprehensive appendix employing journal-writing ideas, discussion and investigation tasks, a community service interest inventory, research topics, and authentic assessment measures including product challenges, performance challenges, and test challenges.

In short, this book will provide the middle grades educator with a comprehensive resource featuring instructional and assessment strategies and techniques to integrate and enhance authentic instruction throughout the entire school year.



IS FOR ADOPT-A-SOMETHING

ACTION PROJECT

DIRECTIONS

Adoption projects represent many successful community service efforts among young people. These can range from simple one-time adoption activities to long-term adoption situations. Study each of the examples below and select one to pursue. Keep a diary of your adoption actions.

1. **ADOPT A MONUMENT:** Keep a historical marker free of weeds and full of flowers.
2. **ADOPT A HOMELESS FAMILY:** Establish a relationship with a family in a temporary homeless facility by providing them with books to read, fruit to eat, used toys/games/puzzles to play with, and clothes to wear.
3. **ADOPT A NURSING HOME:** Research a nursing home or senior citizen care facility in your area that might benefit from a series of letters, visits, and gifts.
4. **ADOPT AN OVERSEAS PEN FRIEND:** Locate a student or classroom in a foreign country and exchange letters, care packages, and audio- or video-tapes of your lifestyle.
5. **ADOPT A GRANDPARENT:** Many elderly people live far away from their families and grandchildren. Ask one of these people to be your surrogate grandparent—this will brighten their days and increase your appreciation of others.
6. **ADOPT A CREEK, TREE, BEACH, OR GARDEN:** Select a natural site in your community that would benefit from some TLC and some clean-up efforts.
7. **ADOPT A PET:** With your parents' permission, visit an animal shelter and adopt a pet.
8. **ADOPT A HOMEBOUND INVALID OR HANDICAPPED PERSON:** Obtain referrals from your school student counsellor for ways to help someone who is homebound and cannot do all of the things you can do because of a severe illness or impairment.
9. **ADOPT A YOUNGER STUDENT:** Make friends with a younger student in your school or neighbourhood and serve as a baby-sitter, a tutor, a mentor, or a helper.



IS FOR ANIMALS IN DANGER

WILLIAMS' TAXONOMY

Fluency Level

In two minutes, list as many endangered animals as you can think of.

Flexibility Level

In two minutes, classify the animals from the above list in some way.

Originality Level

In two minutes, try to come up with an adoption project that no one else has thought of.

Elaboration Level

Look at your list of endangered animals and write a short essay describing the similarities and differences that the animals have.

Risk-Taking Level

From the list of endangered animals, select an animal that you would like to see 'saved'. Prepare a strategy for saving this animal from extinction. How would you go about implementing the strategy?

Complexity Level

Determine the worth of this animal in the ecosystem in which it lives. What would happen if it no longer existed?

Curiosity Level

Explain why you think that so many animals are endangered.

Imagination Level

In two minutes, imagine what it would be like if nobody cared at all about the welfare of animals.



IS FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS AND PROTECTION

BLOOM'S TAXONOMY

KNOWLEDGE

List all the agencies and services in your community whose mission it is to protect, care for, and prevent the neglect of or cruelty to animals.

COMPREHENSION

Expand your listing of RSPCA's and other animal services, agencies or groups by writing a two- or three-line description of the mission and services offered.

APPLICATION

Use the listing of agencies and services to create a brochure. The brochure should promote community awareness of services available and ways individuals or groups can support and strengthen these efforts.

ANALYSIS

Determine which of these agencies are the most effective in educating the public about the importance of proper care and management of animals and their habitats.

SYNTHESIS

Prepare a series of posters to display in prominent places (library, post office, supermarkets, etc.) to promote community awareness of animal protection and control laws and practices.

EVALUATION

Come up with a set of criteria to evaluate the effectiveness of different methods to provide education or action to improve animal protection.

Examples of methods:

1. Volunteer at the local animal shelter to help care for the animals.
2. Prepare a lecture and deliver it to classrooms for younger children.
3. Develop a 'pet visit program' to take pets to visit senior citizen or nursing home occupants.
4. Prepare and distribute a brochure to encourage kindness and concern for animals.