



# **Environmental Justice Curriculum**

## **(for Teacher use in classroom)**

### **Preface**

#### **Why did the EJ Grassroots team create this curriculum?**

While most students are aware of environmental challenges, the critical intersection of these issues with social justice is often less understood. We believe it's essential for every student to recognize the importance of environmental justice. Designed for 5th to 10th graders, this curriculum aims to serve as an informative stepping stone, elucidating how environmental issues disproportionately impact marginalized communities and why equitable solutions are necessary.

Our curriculum aligns with the spirit of recent [legislation](#) in California, which mandates support for climate change education starting in the 2024–25 school year. It offers timely, relevant content that not only adheres to these new educational standards but also enriches students' understanding of environmental justice as a crucial aspect of sustainability.

**But can't I use the many resources already available?** Many resources are currently available to students and teachers, such as WebQuests and compilations of various random links for self-study. However, most of these are not designed in an interactive and engaging format that will make students want to learn about this issue. Our curriculum makes it easy for teachers to incorporate these interactive modules into their teaching.

#### **How did we design our curriculum and what is the benefit to teachers?**

We curated a variety of resources to form an interactive, easy-to-use, easy-to-teach curriculum. Teachers do not have to do any additional prep work, since all worksheets and slides are provided. Furthermore, this curriculum is flexible and can be incorporated into existing plans in many ways.

#### **How long is the curriculum?**

4 modules of roughly 40-45 mins each



| Module                                      | Lesson Objectives                                                                                                                         | Lesson Time |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Intro to Environmental Justice           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is environmental justice (EJ)?</li><li>• How common is EJ?</li></ul>                         | 40-45 mins  |
| 2. History of Environmental Injustice (EIJ) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How has EIJ affected low-income communities and communities of color?</li></ul>                   | 40-45 mins  |
| 3. How does EIJ Affect Us?                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How does EIJ affect people in our own community?</li><li>• How close is EIJ to us?</li></ul>      | 40-45 mins  |
| 4. What Can We Do?                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What can we do as a community, teachers, and students to support environmental justice?</li></ul> | 40-45 mins  |

[Contact us for the entire curriculum](#)