

**LESSON TITLE**

Love Canal Tragedy

**Suggested Grade Level(s):**

5

**Overview:**

The tragic effects on the people living near the Love Canal.

**Pathway:**

Environmental Justice

**Duration:**

90 Minutes

**Teacher Tip: Suggested Pacing:**

Complete Park drawings for discussion on Day 1.

Spend Day 2 discussing the Love Canal Story and its effects on the people living in the area.

**Academic Standard Alignment:**

5-ESS3.C - Human Impacts on Earth Systems

**Objectives:**

Identify and discuss an outdoor space that has significance.

Students will be able to understand the facts of the Love Canal story.

Students will be able to identify ideas to become more environmentally conscious stakeholders of the world.

**Environmental Justice Tie In:**

How chemical waste sites can be hazardous to the health of people living near them.

**Computational Thinking Competencies and Practices:**

Comparing Birth defects/health issues in the Love Canal area vs. the rest of the U.S.

**Essential Questions (Unit/Lesson):**

How do Environmental issues affect people?

**Materials for Students:**

Copy of the Love Canal Story

Calculators

Scratch Paper

Colored Pencils

**Students Prior Knowledge:**

Students would need to be aware of hazardous waste materials.

**Teacher Preparation:**

Paper for student drawings. Copy of the Love Canal story. Any unique data comparing health issues of the people living near the Love Canal with the rest of the U.S.

**Habits of mind:**

1. Listening to Others with Understanding and Empathy

## **LESSON SEQUENCE**

Ask the students to draw a picture of a park or outdoor area where they like to spend their time.

Explain to the students that we are very lucky in Pennsylvania to have many parks and outdoor areas available for enjoyment and recreation. Tell them that in some places and cities people may not have this privilege and there have been instances of the places where people live making them sick.

Love Canal: Introduce love canal by asking students how they would feel if they found out their park/outdoor place was making them sick. Give students a background of Love Canal and Hooker chemical company. Reference <http://www.epa.gov/history/topics/lovecanal/01.html> for the complete story. A powerpoint or media presentation may supplement the teaching of this topic.

Activity: Have the students write a letter to hooker chemical company, a victim of the chemicals, the government or any other person they feel had a part in the issue. Prompt their writing by having them recite a fact, and state how they feel in their letters. Collect the letters for assessment.

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

<https://archive.epa.gov/epa/aboutepa/love-canal-tragedy.html>