Kura Kaitiaki: Water Conservation

Introduction

Kura Kaitiaki talks about promoting Kaitiakitanga (guardianship) through water conservation. You are the honoured guardians of our precious treasures *wai* and divine law through water conservation.

Education Programme Overview

Introduction: Kura Kaitikai is a resource which comprehensively explores the issues associated with using tap water. Its guided approach allows you to effortlessly teach the concepts of water conservation and environmental action. The resource encourages students to understand where their tap water comes from and make informed decisions about how they use it.

Structure and Content of the Resource: The Kura Kaitiaki: Water Conservation resource is comprised of four sections. In some districts there may be an additional resource available that looks at how water gets to your taps and what water treatment process it has gone through.

Section One: Water as a resource
This section examines the students' knowledge and experiences with water. Students gain an understanding that water is a precious resource. Differences in water use around the world are also investigated.

Section Two: The water cycle
This section includes activities based around the natural water cycle and how water changes state and moves around the environment.

Section Three: How much water are we using?
Students measure how much water is used at school on a daily basis and explore how it is used.

Section Four: Making change
This section provides students with an opportunity to use their new knowledge and understanding to make informed decisions about how they use water. Students identify the priorities for change and organise action for the environment to reduce their use of tap water.

Experience: This resource covers the curriculum areas of Science, Social Sciences, Health and Technology. Mathematics and English objectives are also included in many activities. The resource can be taught throughout your timetable and over several subject areas. If you are limited for time you can select activities. Ideally the resource should be taught in full for maximum comprehension of the concepts involved.

Concepts:
Water is a finite resource and it is up to everyone to minimise water wastage.

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Key Competencies

The resource aligns with the current thinking and effective pedagogy for Education for Sustainability. At the time of writing, the Guidelines for Environmental Education in New Zealand Schools (1999) offer a format for environmental education programmes. The concepts, areas and dimensions in the guidelines are incorporated in this unit.

Kura Kaitiaki: Water Conservation is based on the Framework for Developing Action Competence in Education for Sustainability. This framework describes six aspects that lead to action competence and that develop the key competencies of the New Zealand Curriculum. They are: connectedness, experiences, reflection, knowledge, a vision of a sustainable future and action taking for responsibility.

Interdependence: Students will develop an understanding that everything and everyone in our world is connected. Students begin to have respect for all life, social injustice, intergenerational equity and finite resources.
[Whanaungatanga]

Sustainability: Students will begin to understand that the choices we make today affect choices we will be able to make in the future.
[Hauora]

Responsibility for Action: Students learn the concept that if we want to use taonga, we must look after that taonga. Students begin to take action, make informed decisions and understand the concepts of citizenship, consumerism, enterprise, resilience and regeneration.
[Kaitiakitanga]

Curriculum Links

Science Level 3 and Level 4
Planet Earth and Beyond: Earth Systems, Interacting Systems
Nature of Science: Investigating in Science, Participating and Contributing

Social Sciences Level 3 and Level 4
- Understand how people view and use places differently
- Understand how people make decisions about access to and use of resources
- Understand how producers and consumers exercise their rights and meet their responsibilities
- Understand how people participate individually and collectively in response to community changes

Mathematics Level 3 and Level 4
Statistics: Statistical Investigation
Geometry and Measurement: Measurement, Shape

Technology Level 3 and Level 4
Technological Practice: Planning for Practice, Brief Development
Nature of Technology: Characteristics of Technology

Health Level 3 and Level 4
Personal Health and Development: Safety Management
Healthy Communities and Environments: People and the Environment

English Level 3 and Level 4
Listening, Reading and Viewing: Process and Strategies, Ideas

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