



Lesson Plan Summary

Magic Tree House #33: *Narwhal on a Sunny Night*

“Thank You, Mother Earth”

*Friendly Letter Writing using **Narwhal on a Sunny Night***

EACH STUDENT WILL:	COMMON CORE STANDARDS ADDRESSED:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read about the land, animals and people of the Arctic Circle in <i>Narwhal on a Sunny Night</i>• Refer to <i>Narwhals and Other Whales</i> Fact Tracker for additional information• View short video clips of the reading of <i>Dear Mother Earth</i> by Schim Schimmel• Pre-write a letter to Mother Earth using a cloze letter writing frame.• Write a final draft of the cloze letter-writing activity• Use the five parts of a friendly letter	<p>READING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• KEY IDEAS AND DETAILS (RI1.1, RI2.1, RI3.1, RI4.1) Ask and answer such questions as <i>who, what, where, when, why</i> and <i>how</i> to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text, (RI2.1)• CRAFT AND STRUCTURE (RI1.4, RI2.4, RI3.4, RI4.4, RI5.4) Determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text relevant to grade specific topic or subject area (RI2.4) <p>WRITING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF WRITING (W1.5, W2.5, W3.5) With guidance and support from adults and peers, focus on a topic and strengthen writing as needed by revising and editing (W2.5)

33-6S0820

Created by: Paula Cirillo, 2009 Magic Tree House Teacher of the Year, Los Angeles, California



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“Thank You, Mother Earth”

Friendly Letter Writing using Narwhal on a Sunny Night

Jack and Annie discovered the beauty of the Arctic and learned the importance of the words “thank you”. Now it’s the students’ turn to write a letter and give thanks to Mother Earth for the beauty of the Arctic and its inhabitants.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Copies of *Narwhal on a Sunny Night*
- *Narwhals and Other Whales* Fact Tracker (For additional information)
- Thank you letter to Mother Earth – one copy for each student (in Appendix)
- Arctic Circle Info graphic reference sheet (in Appendix)
- *Dear Children of the Earth* by Schim Schimmel or a reading of the book on video links.

PROCEDURE:

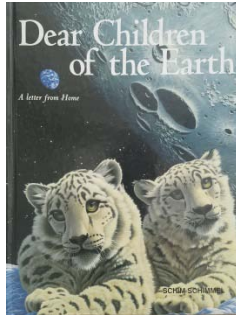
1. After reading *Narwhal on a Sunny Night*, discuss how Jack and Annie solved the riddle which was looking for a “word that will glow and unite worlds”. They discovered that the word was “thank you”.
2. It is now the students’ turn to say “thank you”. They will write a letter to Mother Earth to say thank you for the beautiful land, animals and people in the Arctic Circle.

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3. As an anticipatory set to their upcoming letter-writing activity, read the picture book ***Dear Children of the Earth*** by Shim Schimmel or show the students a reading of it on one of the following links. This book is a letter from Mother Earth to the reader.



Schim Schimmel, the author, takes you into his studio and reads his book on Earth Day. His message is the same as what Jack and Annie learned; human beings and animals on this earth are all interconnected and we must take care of one another.

<https://www.facebook.com/artbyschimmel/videos/earth-day-2020-dear-children-of-the-earth/281422709517165/>

A young girl's interpretive reading of Dear Children of the Earth.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJSOp9i4htA>

4. The students fill in one of the friendly letter frames in the appendix.
5. Share the Arctic Circle Infographic with them to review the vocabulary necessary to fill in the cloze activity.
6. The blank letter frame can be used for a final copy to the cloze activity. It could also be used for an original letter to Mother Earth in lieu of the cloze activity.

Appendix

- Friendly Letter - cloze activity (nouns)
- Friendly Letter - cloze activity (nouns and reasons)
- Friendly letter writing paper (frame with the 5 parts of a friendly letter)
- Writing paper
- Arctic Circle Info graphic



Date _____

Dear Mother Earth,

Thank you for the beauty of the Arctic land. I like the _____

_____ , _____ ,

and _____ .

Thank you for the special animals. I like the _____ ,

_____ , and _____ .

Thank you for the people of the Arctic. The indigenous people are the

_____ . Two groups of people who study the animals are called

_____ and _____ .

I will show my thanks to you, Mother Earth, by _____

_____ .

From a child of the earth,





Date _____

Dear Mother Earth,

Thank you for the splendor of the Arctic land. I especially like _____
because _____.

Thank you for the interesting animals. One of my favorite ocean mammals is the
_____ because _____.

An interesting land animal is the _____ because _____
_____.

Thank you for the people of the Arctic. They are special because _____

_____.

I am going to research more about _____.

I wonder _____
_____.

Thank you from a child of the Earth,





LAND AND CLIMATE



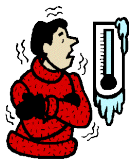
Arctic Circle – cold, barren, icy



Land of the Midnight Sun



Glaciers, ice floes, icebergs



Coldest weather is about -22 to 5 degrees F (Sadly, it keeps getting warmer because of climate change)

ANIMALS

Whales



Orca



Beluga



Minke



Narwhal

Land and Sea



Walrus



Ice Seal



Polar Bear



Reindeer



Arctic Hare



Arctic Fox

PEOPLE

Explorers



The Vikings:
Erik the Red
Leif Erikson



European:
Knud Rasmussen

Indigenous



Inuit People

Scientists and Researchers

Today



observe, study, experiment, discover...

WAYS TO HELP MOTHER EARTH – plant a tree, pick up trash... **SHARE YOUR IDEAS ON THIS LINE** _____

FURTHER RESEARCH IDEAS – Climate change, Life in the Arctic, Why is it called the Land of the Midnight Sun? **SHARE YOUR IDEAS ON THIS LINE** _____