

FUNDRED Lesson Plan for Kids in New Orleans

I. Goals:

1. To offer an age-appropriate education on the problems associated with lead pollution.
2. To provide resources to discuss lead-pollution, including causes, repercussions to environment and health, protections and preventions.
3. To educate participants of the symptoms associated with lead exposure as well as safety and hygiene techniques.
4. Introduce ongoing project offering a solution to make safe one aspect of the environmental problem.
5. Offer a creative experiential opportunity for understanding how citizens can participate in the democratic process that also motivates important changes that impact our future.
6. Have fun being involved in a nationwide art project.

II. Materials:

- FUNDRED Template
- Scrap paper
- Pencils
- Colored pencils, crayons
- Optional: FUNDRED PowerPoint

III. Lesson:

1. Introduction:

As a means of engaging the students in discussion it may be appropriate begin by asking a series of questions. The questions asked will help focus the lesson and will be based on age, for example:

Younger Students

- Who likes money?
- Who likes art?
- What materials do artists work with?
- What was something you did to help someone else?
- How did that make you feel?
- Who wants to make the environment a safer place for people and animals?

Older Students

- What is democracy?
- How does the democratic process work?
- How do you think art can motivate change?
- Can one voice/one vote make a difference?

2. Explaining FUNDRED:

The Fundred Dollar Bill Project is an opportunity to participate in expressing support for an important environment and health issue. A Fundred is a special kind of one hundred dollar bill, with some extra FUN added by each of you as the artist. This special money is going to be used to help make the environment cleaner, healthier and safe from LEAD. The project starts in New Orleans but then will help do the same thing for other cities too.

The idea is that 3 million students will draw their own Fundreds and they will be picked up by an armored truck that runs on vegetable oil and delivered to Washington D.C. to congress to ask for an even exchange of real funding to make safe the lead contaminated soil in New Orleans.

Middle and High School students might be interested to know the Fundred Dollar Bill was created by an artist who is working with scientists and city planners in New Orleans. This artist thinks of himself as only the "paper delivery guy" because the real artists are the 3 million students creating Fundred Dollar Bills.

3. Understanding Lead:

Lead is a naturally occurring kind of metal that is poisonous if it gets inside your body. Lead can make it hard for children to learn and grow.

a. Where is the lead?

Lead was used in paint to keep the colors brighter. It also made the paint more resistant to damage. Lead was also used in gasoline because it was helped reduce wear on the engine. When we found out lead was dangerous the government banned its use but a big problem is that lead doesn't break down in the environment. Before lead was banned the exhaust from cars distributed particles of into the environment and it settled in soil. Also, lead paint inside and outside homes eventually weathered and chipped off

into the soil. Home remodeling and work has distributed lead into the air and it has settled in the soil and inside houses.

Lead paint in the home also breaks down into dust and can contaminate floors, walls and furniture. Lead isn't always visible especially when it turns to dust.

b. How does it get into my body?

When kids play in the yard, dust and dirt can get into their bodies when hands are placed in the mouth. You cannot see or taste lead.

c. What can I do to be safe?

Remember: Always wash hands after playing outside and never put dirty hands into your mouth! Make sure your younger brothers and sisters are not putting their dirty hands in their mouth! Make sure their hands are washed often. Make sure your younger brother and sisters crib or bed isn't near chipping paint (common around windowsills)...as they can breath in the dust as they sleep.

Also: Eat Healthy Food! A diet full of fruits and vegetables helps your body fight lead! The more calcium you have in your body, the better chance your body will use the calcium instead of lead. If your body doesn't absorb (use) the lead it will just pass through.

d. Finding a Solution:

We are problem solvers and we can use science to keep kids safe from lead! By adding a simple salt called a phosphate amendment to the soil with lead in it we can make a chemical reaction! And POOF! The lead is no longer dangerous to children.

e. FUNDING AND FUNDRED:

The Congress is the part of the government that decides how to spend America's money. We are going to trade 3 million Fundreds, including your Fundred with Congress for real money. Then we can clean-up the soil with super science and make it safe for kids to play!

So this is your opportunity to tell Congress that you think this is an important issue. Each drawing is

very valuable! If you want to donate your Fundred to the project it will be carried to Washington so that your voice is heard.

f. Get Drawing!

Kids are the most important part of this project! The value of each child's creativity can make a huge difference!

You can use a scratch paper do some warm up drawing exercises like making swirls and stripes and polka dots! Make some sketches of your ideas for the FUNDRED. Go over the different areas that need to be completed, which are outlined on the template.

Draw your FUNDRED with all of your wonderful ideas!!! Begin with pencil and then add color!

...or, just go for it by working directly on your Fundred template!

g. Wrap it up!

Wrap up the project, talk a little more about lead. Some symptoms include difficulty concentrating, stomachache, irritability, behavioral issues, hyperactivity, trouble sleeping, and weight loss. These are vague symptoms that are often mistaken for a cold or the flu.

After prolonged exposure, lead can cause serious learning disabilities and problem behavior. Prevention and early screening are our best tools to stop lead poisoning in children.

Be prepared with a list of local resources. A simple blood test can indicate a child's blood lead level, if exposure is suspected. Encourage the kids to tell a teacher or parent if they experience any symptoms.