

Grade 8 Life Orientation Worksheet

Pollution and health risks

Environmental health

1. Divide into work groups. Have a group discussion about the types of environmental health problems we are exposed to in the different areas in which we live in South Africa. Some children may be exposed to the pollution from a factory near their home. Other children may be exposed to water pollution or other forms of air pollution. Share your thoughts.
2. Each work group is required to investigate an environmental health problem in their community. For this activity, you should decide, as a group, what environmental issue you would like to investigate. (River pollution, air pollution, etc.)
3. You can visit your local health departments or community clinics or speak to residents to find out what the environmental health concerns in your community are. You can also go online or to your library to find more information regarding the topic.
4. Present your findings to the rest of your class in a speech. Use presentation material to support your speech.

NOTE: Allow each person in the group an opportunity to participate in the group discussions. Prepare your presentation together and present it together, as a group.

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Your teacher will assess your speech and group work using the following checklist.

Checklist for observation of group discussions			
Name:		Date:	
	Criteria: Does the learner:	Yes	No
1	Wait for a pause before s/he interrupts a speaker?		
2	Interrupt a speaker using polite phrases?		
3	Show evidence of having listened to and heard the speaker's point?		
4	Support points with which s/he agrees?		
5	Disagree with a point politely and constructively?		
6	Give reasons to support his or her own judgements or points?		
7	Make a point clearly and appropriately loudly?		
8	Make eye contact with people to whom s/he is speaking?		
9	Show positive body language (leans forward and does not move around unnecessarily, for example)?		
10	Make notes to assist with remembering points made by others?		
Comments for improvement:			

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Suggested Solutions

During this activity, learners are required to demonstrate the following skills/knowledge/actions:

- Display knowledge of what environmental health issues are.
- Participate in a group discussion regarding the topic.
- Understanding for how environmental issues affect humans.
- Contribute to their group discussion to identify an environmental health issue to investigate.

Appendix of Assessment Tools

Use the following three-point rubric to evaluate learners' work during this lesson.

- **Three points:** Learners were highly engaged in class discussions; worked productively in their groups; suggested possible environmental health problems to investigate.
- **Two points:** Learners participated in class discussions; worked satisfactorily in their groups; agreed on an environmental health problem to investigate.
- **One point:** Learners participated minimally in class discussions; had difficulty working in their groups.

Use the rubric below to assist when evaluating the above points in terms of knowledge, skills, values and attitudes:

Knowledge	Skills	Value and attitudes
Understands the concepts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental health hazards • Water pollution • Air pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is able to participate in group discussions. • Can distinguish between positive and negative attitudes to the environment. • Is able to work as a member of a group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands how environmental health issues affect humans. • Able to motivate answers.

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Use the checklist below to assess participation in group discussions.

Checklist for observation of group discussions			
Name:		Date:	
	Criteria: Does the learner:	Yes	No
1	Wait for a pause before s/he interrupts a speaker?		
2	Interrupt a speaker using polite phrases?		
3	Show evidence of having listened to and heard the speaker's point?		
4	Support points with which s/he agrees?		
5	Disagree with a point politely and constructively?		
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7	Make a point clearly and appropriately loudly?		
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Comments for improvement:			