



WILD CLASSROOM

Conservation in the Classroom

Supplemental Material Packet



LEADING CHANGE: THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Alexia Leclercq

WWF Youth Conservation Leadership Award
Winner, 2022

Livestreamed on Thursday, January 18

1:30 pm ET/10:30 am PT

Recording available on the [Wild Classroom YouTube](#)

Contents



Warm-up for students, with brainstorming questions to get them ready to watch



Wrap-up for students, with quiz questions to assess understanding after watching



Teacher guide containing optional discussion questions, helpful resources, and answer keys

LEADING CHANGE: THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Student Warm-Up

Get ready to watch the Conservation in the Classroom event by reading and brainstorming about the topic with the questions below.

Define:

Match the vocabulary term with its definition.

_____ 1. Conservation	A. justice with fairness and freedom from bias or favoritism
_____ 2. Civic engagement	B. planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, pollution, destruction, or neglect
_____ 3. Equity	C. a government in which the highest power is given to the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through elected representatives
_____ 4. Environmental justice	D. the laws made by a legislator or legislative body
_____ 5. Activism	E. the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies
_____ 6. Legislation	F. individual and collective actions designed to identify and address issues of public concern
_____ 7. Liberation	G. taking action to bring about social change
_____ 8. Democracy	H. a movement seeking equal rights and status for a group

Consider:

“When I lived in Singapore, there were times when school would close for a week due to air pollution,” Leclercq says. Yet in the classroom, “climate change was framed as a future problem that would only impact polar bears and the Arctic.”

(Source: [Activist Alexia Leclercq is changing how—and what—students learn about climate change](#))

Climate change affects much more than just polar bears in the Arctic; it’s personal for a lot of people, including many Indigenous communities and people of color.

Why do you think there is often a disconnect between how the climate crisis is taught in school and how people are experiencing it?

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Student Wrap-Up

After watching the Conservation in the Classroom event, answer the following prompts to show what you've learned.

Explain how climate change is considered a social justice issue.

We often think of adults as being the ones with the power to make change in our communities, but young people can make a difference too. What strengths or advantages do youth have that adults don't that could help them in advocating for the environment?

What personal reasons do you have to care about environmental justice and equity? (Hint: Think of any environmental or social disparities that may exist in your community.)

How can you get involved and lead change within your local region?

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Teacher Guide

Use the discussion questions to further enhance student comprehension following the event viewing. For additional information on environmental justice and youth engagement, please reference the list of articles, videos, and teaching materials in the additional resources section. Also included is the answer key to the student warm-up vocabulary questions.

Discussion Questions

- What aspects of Alexia Leclercq's journey and achievements resonated with you the most, and why?
- How has hearing about Alexia's experiences influenced your perspective on youth activism and environmental conservation?
- Why is it important for environmental activists to consider and address social justice issues?
- Why should we participate in activism in our local communities if environmental problems affect the entire globe?

Additional Resources

- Podcast: [Nature Breaking: Young People are Fighting for a Safe Climate Future](#)
- Web story: [Meet Alexia Leclercq, WWF's 2022 Conservation Youth Leadership Award Winner](#)
- Web story: [Activist Alexia Leclercq is changing how—and what—students learn about climate change](#)
- Web story: [Your Voice Matters: WWF Activists on Why They Speak Up for the Planet](#)
- Web story: [WWF's Grace Lee on the connections between conservation and activism](#)
- Recorded livestream: [How Can I Make a Difference? Helping the Planet as a Young Person](#)
- For more information about Alexia and their work, visit [Alexia's personal webpage](#) and the webpage of their nonprofit, [Start:Empowerment](#).

Student Warm-Up Definitions Answer Key

<u>B</u> 1. Conservation
<u>F</u> 2. Civic engagement
<u>A</u> 3. Equity
<u>E</u> 4. Environmental justice
<u>G</u> 5. Activism
<u>D</u> 6. Legislation
<u>H</u> 7. Liberation
<u>C</u> 8. Democracy