

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Class Project is an opportunity for students to identify and focus on ONE environmental issue in their local area (school, community), investigate ways to address the issues, and develop and take action to improve the environment. Through the Class Project, students develop content knowledge and understandings that align with the State Content Standards in English-Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, History/Social Science, and Visual and Performing Arts.

Students have an opportunity to build confidence and self-esteem in developing and completing a long-term project, as well as developing their skills as informed problem solvers and decision makers.

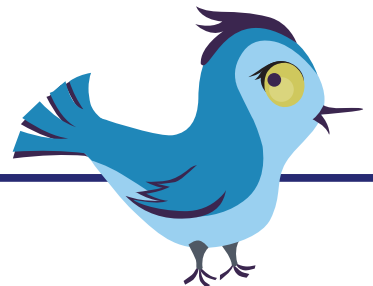
USING THE PROJECT PLANNER

- Project should be a student driven, teacher led program.

Use the TEACHER PAGES and the suggestions to help guide your students in conducting the Class Project

(Note that teacher pages are RED and noted on top with “Teacher Page”.)

- **Use TEACHER PAGES as a place for you to record your notes.**
- **Use the STUDENT PAGES for students to record their ideas, findings, progress, reflections, etc., on the Class Project.**
(Note that student pages are BLUE and noted on top with “Student Page”.)
- **Select from appropriate STUDENT PAGES to document the Class Project in the portfolio.**



TEACHER ROLE

- **HELP students create a list of potential topics (focus on sustainability).**
- **Examples of possible projects include the following:**
 - Organize a school recycling program which will continue in the future.
 - Develop a project to protect the habitat of an endangered species in your area.
 - Develop an energy conservation program.
 - Organize a creek, trail or beach cleanup and ways to sustain the clean-up.
 - Conduct a water quality study in a local area and develop strategies to improve the quality.
 - Start a native plant garden at your school to encourage schools and businesses to plant native plants.
- **HELP students select a goal, and DEVELOP an action plan and a timeline that include sustainability beyond the school year.**
- **ASSIST students in securing needed resources and materials.**
- **HELP students put their plan into action.**
- **FACILITATE classroom discussions about the project, its progress, and student learning.**
- **FACILITATE reflection throughout the project.**
- **ENCOURAGE student ownership, cooperation, compromise, and comprehension.**
- **CONNECT project to appropriate State Content Standards.**
- **READ and understand the Disney Planet Challenge Rubric**
- **MAKE sure the Class Project portfolio is received by the deadline.**

STUDENT ROLE

- **BRAINSTORM** possible topics.
- **RESEARCH** topics.
- **EVALUATE** and **SELECT** a project.
Set **GOALS** and **OBJECTIVES**.
- **DEVELOP** an action plan.
- **CREATE** and **DISPLAY** a project timeline.
- **DEVELOP** a strategy to obtain needed materials.
- **CONDUCT** a fund raising effort if necessary.
- **KEEP** records/documents; **TAKE** pictures and/or videos; **MAKE** charts and graphs.
- **CREATE** a Class Project portfolio to describe the full effort of your project.
- **PUBLICIZE** your project to a variety of audiences (e.g., school, local community).
- **EVALUATE** the effectiveness of your project.
- **POSE** strategies to sustain your efforts.

