

BIG QUESTION

What kind of help does the Earth need?



Read the book for Jewish values

All the World (3s)

Caring for the Earth - *Shmirat ha-a-da-mah* -

שְׁמִירַת הָאֲדָמָה

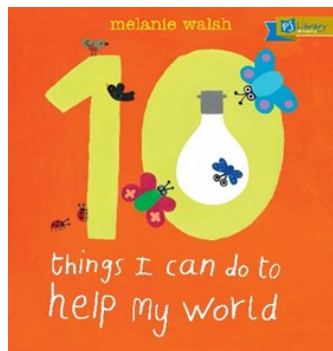
From the time of Creation humans were assigned the task of working and guarding the Earth (Genesis 2:15). Included in the mitzvah or commandment of *shmirat ha'adamah* is safeguarding the world's resources. *Sefer HaChinuch*, a 13th century book of Jewish education, cautions that people should be careful to not destroy "even a grain of mustard." Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch, a 19th century Jewish leader, explains that the world and its resources have been lent to us by God "for wise use only."

Optional storytelling technique

A flap book is ideal for guessing what is hidden. The ingenious design of this book may even challenge you to find the flap itself. See if children can predict what is behind each flap. As children become familiar with the book, perhaps they can add new ideas for helping the world.

Discuss Jewish values with one another

Find time to think about what this value means to you personally before you bring it into the classroom



READ the PJ Library book

10 Things I Can Do to Help My World

By Melanie Walsh
Published by
Candlewick Press

Care for the Earth
Shmirat ha'adamah



JEWISH BEDTIME STORIES and SONGS
www.pjlibrary.org

For the teacher's consideration

- What challenges do you personally face as you try to safeguard the environment?
- What new classroom practices or school wide policies might you introduce to increase students' interest in caring for the world?
- Nurturing a love of nature is often viewed as a first step in helping children assume responsibility for the Earth and its resources. How do you help children feel positively connected to the environment?

Questions for children

- What things do you currently do to take care of the world?
- Can you think of one new way to take care of the world?
- Why is it important to take care of the world? What might happen if people forget to care for the Earth?



Imagine how values will come to life

**How will your environment reflect the value of gratitude?
What might change in your classroom?**

Job chart - Create a new environment-based job for your classroom job chart. Students holding the position of *shomer* (or *shomeret* for girls) are the environment guardians. They would be responsible for making sure lights are turned off, water faucets are not dripping, and classmates remember to recycle.

Science - Help children learn the basics of gardening by planting an indoor herb garden for them to tend.

Cooking - Use the herbs from your garden to make soup, salad, or pizza.

Fine motor/math skills - Create a card game of sorting and matching items to their appropriate colored recycle bins.



Engage families in conversations about values

How can you deepen home-school relationships?

Family conservation bags

During drop-off or pick-up time, set up a table where families can create fun and festive conservation totes. Provide simple blank tote bags, fabric markers, stamps, and ribbons. Encourage them to decorate with their names or favorite foods.

Whose turn for laundry?

Would your families be willing to sponsor cloth napkins for use once a week, perhaps on Shabbat? Two sets of napkins and alternating volunteers to wash them should do it. Perhaps the week their child is featured at Shabbat is the week the family prepares the napkins in honor of their Shabbat Star.

More on this topic...

PJ Library books

26 Big Things Small Hands Can Do

by Coleen Paratore

It's a Mitzvah

by Tilda Balsley

PJ Blog

<http://bit.ly/PJ-blog-recycling>



DISCUSS Jewish values Caring for the Earth Shmirat ha'adamah

Judaism teaches it is everyone's responsibility to protect wildlife and safeguard the earth and its wonders.

- How does our family care for the earth?
- What is something new that we could try?

DO fun stuff at home

Rainwater

Challenge

Conserve water by placing a bucket outside, and watch it fill with rainwater or snow. Use the gathered water to water plants or wash the car.



MORE resources

Recycled crafts ideas on Pinterest: <http://bit.ly/pjcrafts>