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Lesson Plan:
Man and the Environment - Working Together

- I. Introduction to the lesson
 - A. Discuss the environment and past mistreatment by man
 1. Pollution
 2. Litter
 3. General lack of concern until things come to a crisis situation
 - B. Discuss mistreatment by industry
 1. Definition of industry and business
 2. Lack of knowledge of the environment
 3. Problems that have occurred due to this lack of knowledge
 - C. The decline of the environment
 1. Air pollution
 2. Land pollution
 3. Water pollution

(Read Melvin Berger's "Pollution")
- II. Man and Industry can work together (pinpoint the oil industry)
 - A. Why do we need oil?
 1. To drive cars
 2. For energy
 3. For household items

(Display a bulletin board showing the many uses of petroleum)
 - B. Current problems in the oil industry due to pollution
 1. Huge costs have hurt the industry and consumers
 2. Oil industry has been blamed for more than their share of the problem.
 3. Discuss regulations and how they have put many companies out of business.
 - C. Steps the industry has taken to help the environment
 1. Habitats for endangered species.
 2. Land save and donated for environmental usage.
 3. Parks, schools, and beautification provided for the public (provide slides or pictures).

III. Pulling it all together.

- A. Review what has been learned about the environment and its problems.
- B. Review how man and the oil industry have worked together to solve some of these problems.
- C. Can man survive without the oil industry?

Play survival game:

1. Divide the class into two groups: one represents man, the other represents the oil industry.
2. Distinguish the two groups by a colored circle pinned to the “consumer” group and a square to the oil group.
3. Print on cards problems presented above - represent both sides of the environmental issues.
4. Each time a new regulation is introduced, one player from the oil industry is put out of business. Each time an oil problem occurs (spills, land polluted, etc.), a consumer is “side-lined” and must sit down.
5. At the end of the game, no one should be standing.
6. Discuss the implication of man and the oil industry not working together.
7. Brainstorm on the board ways we can continue the relationship.

Note: This lesson is very basic because it is intended for first graders. I’m sure it could be modified and extended for higher grade levels.