


the CONSERVation Kid

Teacher Reference Document | Grades 9-12

Contents

- **Introduction** (1 minute)
 - **Documentary Screening** (12-24 minutes)
 - **Documentary Discussion** (8 minutes)
 - **Microplastics Activity** (60 minutes)
 - **Make It Local Activity** (30+ minutes)
- 

Introduction

(1 MINUTE)

The video we are about to watch shares the story of a young activist, Cash Daniels, who is working to clean up the Tennessee River. After the video, we will further discuss some of the issues mentioned by Cash and figure out how we can participate in local environmental efforts.

Documentary Screening

(12-24 MINUTES)

Before you play the [video](#), please print and pass out the grades 9-12 student video questions. We do recommend playing the video twice if time allows.

Documentary Discussion

(6-8 MINUTES)

Discuss the video questions together as a class.

ANSWER KEY

1. **Cash shares that ____ % of ocean trash comes from rivers?**

A: 80

the conservation kid

2. Cash shows various awards he has won around his room. What can we infer about Cash's success?

A: We can infer that Cash has been recognized for his conservation efforts and raising awareness about river cleanups.

3. How has Cash expanded his reach beyond his local community?

A: Cash partnered with another young conservationist, Ella, to collect one million pieces of trash in a year.

4. How does Erin Daniels, Cash's mother, support his efforts?

A: She drives him to conservation-related activities.

A: She helps manage his email and phone calls.

A: She advised him to think of ways to self-fund his conservation efforts and grow his business-minded thinking.

A: She helps him collect and transport aluminum recycling.

5. Why does Cash prioritize recycling aluminum cans?

A: Cash earns money from recycling aluminum and uses that income to help fund his other conservation efforts.

6. What is a problem that Cash noticed with fishing lines and how does he address it?

A: Fishermen often leave fishing lines all over the riverbank, even hanging on trees.

A: Cash makes fishing line recycling receptacles (monofilament bins) and installs them by common fishing spots to collect used/broken fishing lines.

A: Cash checks the monofilament bins and sends the disposed finishing lines to a fishing supply company to be recycled and repurposed.

7. Is it easy to recycle tires in Cash's area?

A: No, Cash shares that very few people recycle tires because you have to pay to have them recycled (though not much). People often just dump them in the river.

8. What is an indicator species?

A: An indicator species is a species whose presence or absence can indicate the overall health of the environment.

9. Why did the Tennessee River Gorge Trust reach out to Cash?

A: They wanted to show Cash that his conservation efforts were valuable and have a significant positive impact on the local environment. They took him to see the thriving community of indicator species birds in the forest along the Tennessee River.

Microplastics

(60 MINUTES)

You may assign the research portion of the activity for students to complete as a homework assignment or have the students complete it independently or in small groups during class.

Whether at home or in class, students need access to iPads/tablets/ chromebooks/laptops to complete the research portion. The Grades 9-12 Microplastics Activity may be duplicated and assigned electronically on Google Classroom or printed out for students.

Introduction Script: Cash Daniels talks to a group of students about microplastics in the documentary. What does he share?

Answer: The Tennessee River is one of the most plastic-polluted rivers in the world. 60-70% of all plastics actually sink. Fish accidentally eat microplastics and it ends up traveling up the food chain.

Continuing Script:

In this activity, you will conduct some research to learn more about the sources of microplastics and its effects on ecosystems.

- After the introduction students can be released to work on the worksheet (45 minutes).
- Bring students back together to discuss their research finds (15 minutes).

Make It Local

(30+ MINUTES)

You may assign the research portion of the activity for students to complete as a homework assignment or have the students complete it independently during class.

Whether at home or in class, students need access to iPads/tablets/chromebooks/laptops to complete the research portion. The Make it Local Activity may be duplicated and assigned electronically on Google Classroom or printed out for students. To extend the activity, you may have students prepare to share their completed Make it Local plans in small groups and determine a check in day for updates at the end of the month or school term.

Introduction Script:

Toward the end of the documentary, Cash says, “Even though kids may be a small part of the population, they are 100% of the future.”

Through speaking to students at schools and encouraging kids to join cleanup efforts, Cash hopes to inspire more young people to care about their local bodies of water and the environment. During this final activity, we will learn about issues affecting our local environment, discover local heroes already addressing these matters, and plan how to get involved.