



ECHO School Program Voices for the Lake Grades 5-10



Summary

What are current issues affecting the health of the Lake Champlain Basin today? Students find their voice through activities that illustrate how we gain information and respond to environmental issues. In a mock town meeting, students are encouraged to research and role play a particular citizen's viewpoint and then debate the spending of \$25,000 in their town. Using state-of-the-art voting technology, students begin to understand the complexity of managing natural resources within the context of human demands. Highly interactive.

Essential Question:

How can our individual voice make a difference when we consider environmental issues?

Focusing Questions:

What is the difference between fact and opinion?

How can the media drive an emotional response to an environmental issue?

How can environmental organizations help formulate facts, perspectives and support a position prior to a debate?

How can youth make a difference in solving environmental issues?

Vermont Standards and Grade Expectations

7.16 Natural Resources and Agriculture

Grade Expectations under development by the VT Department of Ed

6.9 Civics, Government and Society

Fulfills: H&SS5 – 6:14, H&SS7 – 8:14, H&SS9 – 10:14

Students act as citizens by identifying problems and proposing solutions

Key Program Activities

- ◆ Triads – a method of warming up to the idea of individual opinions and ideas
- ◆ Students research in small groups one issue affecting lake health and record facts that support their character in a mock debate
- ◆ Participation in a mock debate in a town meeting format
- ◆ Using technology, students vote on both the debate AND their opinions about youth involvement in environmental issues today

Pre-Trip Activities:

ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center
1 College Street
Burlington, VT 05401

Toll Free 1-877-ECHOFUN
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