



EARTH FRIEND FOREVER

by MOLLY BLOOM, MARC SANCHEZ, and SANDEN TOTTON Illustrated by MIKE ORODÁN



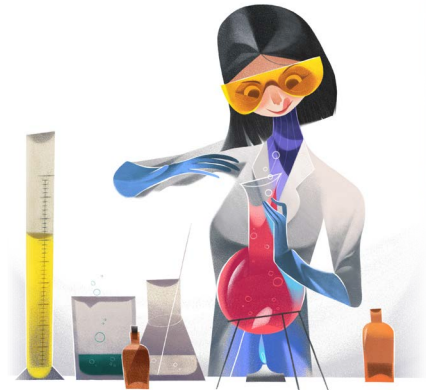
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DEAR EARTH

The book is written as a friendly letter from Earth. Review or teach the friendly letter format. Students can look in the back of the book for a model. Then, have students write back to Earth and explain one thing they will do to try to help the planet. They can refer back to the book for ideas or come up with their own.

INTERVIEW A SCIENTIST

There are many scientists working to either create alternatives to plastic or to find ways to break down plastic using bacteria or other methods. Ask students to prepare as if they are going to interview a scientist. Create a list of questions. Encourage them to think about what the scientist does, but also what kind of career or education pathway led them there. Then, reach out to a local scientist or schedule a virtual interview.



PROBLEM-SOLVING SHOW-AND-TELL

Alternatives to plastic are recommended. Ask students to find something made of plastic and then share an alternative. They may want to look in the book for ideas or come up with their own. Students can bring in their item and have “Not That, Try This” show-and-tell. Students can bring in their item (or a picture of their item) and explain the alternative they are suggesting. The class may want to invite other classrooms to see their exhibits.

RECYCLING SURVEY

Integrate math by creating a survey to share with other classrooms or family members. Show examples of surveys and then create a survey with a few questions such as “How often do you recycle?” Students can brainstorm a few questions they have about recycling habits and then give the



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TEACHING TIPS



survey to others. Integrating technology, such as using Google Forms, can help streamline the process. Then, graph the results and use the graph to answer questions and make comparisons.

SCIENCE SOLUTIONS

Scientists are working on developing solutions to address plastic pollution. In the back of the book there is a list of “Science Solutions in the Works.” Read the ideas listed and ask students to consider which idea they think would help Earth the most. Students should think of a few different reasons to support their thinking. They can give their opinion either in writing or verbally.



LISTEN AND LEARN

The authors of the book have a podcast for kids called *Brains On*. [They have an episode about plastic that students can use to practice their listening skills.](#) Before starting the episode, ask students to talk about what good listeners need to do. You may want to make a checklist of listening skills. Encourage students to jot down the main ideas they hear as they listen the first time. Then, have them listen again and write down anything they missed. Afterwards, have groups of students work together to make a listening quiz that they could give to others based on what they learned. The podcasts can be found on most major podcast sites, but also by going to www.brainson.org.

BEING A BETTER FRIEND TO THE EARTH

Earth Friend Forever is a letter from one friend to another. This book focuses on reducing plastic, but what else can be done to be a good friend to Earth? Have students make a poster showing other ways we can help the earth. They might include planting trees, conserving water, using renewable energy, etc.



These Teaching Tips were created by Dr. Jennifer McMahon, Education Consultant