

Performance Task Overview

Task	Grade Level	Key Question	Example Field Work
A Visit to the Pond, Lake, or Beach	K	What do we see at a pond, lake, or beach?	A visit to a pond, lake or beach to observe what the children see
A Walk in the Woods	1	What do we observe in the woods using our senses?	A walk in the woods collecting observations using the senses
Estuaries	2	What is an estuary and why are estuaries important?	Field experience at a local estuary
Vegetable Gardens*	3	What does it take to start a vegetable garden?	Growing a Classroom or School Yard Vegetables Garden
Clean Water Healthy Fish*	3/4	What can we do to keep the water clean for our fish population?	Aquarium Visit Community Outreach with actions we can take to keep the water clean
Forest Benefits*	4/5	What are the benefits of a forest and why are forests worth keeping?	Forest Walk: Finding evidence of the four forest benefits: recreation, habitat protection, clean environment, and forest products
Forest Management	4/5/6	What is forest management and why is it important to the future of forests in our state?	Visit to a managed forest <i>This task has a career focus.</i>
Save Our Salmon: Clean Water	4/5	How is clean water important to the survival of salmon?	Fish hatchery visit
Save Our Salmon: Water Flow	4/5	What is water flow and how is it important to the survival of salmon?	Fish hatchery visit Fish ladder visit
Marine Debris*	5/6/7	What is marine debris and how is it a threat to marine life?	Clean up at a local beach or neighborhood
Stormwater Pollution*	4/5/6	What is stormwater pollution and how can we control it?	Mapping the school campus for storm water solutions
Rain Gardens*	5/6/7	What is a Rain Garden and how does it work?	School rain garden teaching site or visit to a local rain garden
Stormwater Engineers*	5/6/7	What is stormwater runoff and how can engineers address the problem of stormwater pollution?	Mapping the school campus for grey and green stormwater solutions <i>This task has a career focus.</i>
Water Quality Monitoring*	6/7/8	How is our water polluted and what tests can we use to monitor its quality?	Water quality testing at a local river, lake, pond or stream
Healthy Waters	5/6/7	How do sewage treatment plants work to clean our water?	Field Experience: Visiting a local sewage treatment plant
Renewable and Non-renewable Energy	6/7/8	What are the differences between renewable and non-renewable energy, and what are the benefits of using renewable energy sources?	Visit to a renewable energy site like a wind farm, a business using solar energy, a dam that is used to generate electricity, etc.

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Renewable Energy: Wind	6/7/8	What is wind energy and what are the pros and cons for this type of renewable energy?	A visit to a wind farm
Renewable Energy: Solar Power	6/7/8	What is solar energy and what are the pros and cons for this type of renewable energy?	A visit to a business that uses solar energy
Renewable Energy: Hydropower	6/7/8	What is hydroelectric energy and what are the pros and cons for this type of renewable energy?	A visit to a hydropower plant or dam
Renewable Energy: Biomass	6/7/8	What is biomass energy and what are the pros and cons for this type of renewable energy?	A visit to a farm that uses biomass energy
Renewable Energy: Geothermal	6/7/8	What is geothermal energy and what are the pros and cons for this type of renewable energy?	A visit a location that generates energy from geothermal heat
Summer in the City: Urban Heat Islands	5/6/7	How can we keep our cities cooler in the summer?	Temperature readings around the campus: Comparative Study
Invasive Plants*	6/7	What are invasive plants and how can we control them?	Data collection: Measuring the percentage of invasive plants and helping with their removal
Microplastics	6/7/8	What are microplastics and how are they a threat to sea life?	Ocean Visit/ Beach Clean Up
Integrated Pest Management (MS)	7/8	What is IPM and how does it work for both the farmers and the environment?	School Gardens: Practicing IPM
The Urban Heat Island Effect	8/9/10	What are urban heat islands, how are they a problem, and what can we do to reduce their impact?	Mapping an urban area and suggesting modifications to reduce the impact of heat from concrete and other surfaces
Ocean Acidification	8/9/10	What is ocean acidification, how is it impacting the oyster industry, and what are possible solutions?	Water testing and monitoring Community education and outreach
Climate Change, Carbon, and Trees	8/9/10	How do we know the climate is changing and what role do trees play in reducing carbon dioxide in our atmosphere?	Tree measuring and calculating the amount of carbon sequestration
Earth Day*	8/9/10	What is the significance of Earth Day, past, present, and future?	Earth Day activities: tree planting, recycling, planting a community garden
Integrated Pest Management (HS)	9/10/11	What is IPM and why is it an important approach for farmers and home gardeners to adopt?	School gardens: Practicing IPM

* Scoring notes and student work samples for the research questions are available for this task.