

Biosphere Challenge 2019

This Teacher's Guide will help you through your work with the Biosphere Challenge. Please, enter your information in the **GREEN** boxes below and erase the pre-printed instructions.

Submit the form **in Word format** via e-mail to johanna.olsson@vanerkulle.se - no later than April 20th 2019.

Name:

Select a cool name for your Challenge entry and write it here!

Who we are:

Here you write the names of everyone in your class, pupils and teachers, who have participated in the Biosphere Challenge 2019.

Name of school and class:

For example: Class 3c at Lake Vänern School, Lidköping, Sweden

Contact:

Enter name and email address of contact person

The Challenge is composed of these four steps

- 1) Discuss possible activities with you class and decide which activity will have the most positive environmental impact. Decide which Environmental Action you will submit to the Biosphere Challenge by voting.
- 2) Carry out the Environmental Action with your class.
- 3) Describe your work, the Environmental Action and agree on your motivation of why it is most relevant for you.
- 4) Submit your entry.

You may check these boxes to keep you on track:

- 1* Democratic discussion and voting
- 2* Carry out the Environmental Action with your class
- 3* Agree on a motivation for your chosen Action
- 4 Describe if you have found a new creative way to make actions for the environment even more fun.

*If you decide to enter the competition, the steps marked with a star are obligatory.

You may also choose to submit your Environmental Action without being part of the competition, as an inspiration for others.

We want to enter the competition: Yes No

1. Select an Environmental Action

Start your process by thinking through your different options for an Environmental Action. Should it be an activity during school hours, or should it be a homework assignment? How much time can you invest in the activity?

Think about if you have noticed anything in your school or its surroundings that could improve. Here are some examples: Can you use bicycles more often when you got ot school? Is there a lot of littering in your neighborhood? How about your recycling strategy? What does the school yard look like? Can you create mini habitats for pollinators? Have a dialogue with your pupils about what is important for them, and what they think will result in the best environmental benefit.

Also, think about in what way your Environmental Action can inspire others and what they can learn from you. Is your environmental Action something that many people can do easily, or is it something that is only relevant for the class? Have your Environmental Action created a lasting change or a new tradition that you will keep doing?

What Environmental Action did you select?

There are many different ways to take Action for the Environment in your biosphere reserve. You may already have great activities for improvement of the environment, but perhaps you could do other things even better?

Describe how the class agreed on which Environmental Action you should select and motivate why this specific Action was selected.

Example 1: Together, we discussed actions that are important for a sustainable environment. We decided that improved recycling at our school and cleaning beaches are actions of high priority. We then voted on which action we wanted to do. We put our votes in a box, and the teacher called us from the class list, to make sure everyone participated. Most people voted for recycling, so this became our selected Environmental Action.

Example 2: We gave individual suggestions and motivated why our own suggestion is so important for the environment. We gave each suggestion a number. We then voted for the suggestion we liked the most.

You may choose your own democratic process to select one action.

2. Carry out your Environmental Action with your class

Depending on what Environmental Action you have selected, it is now the time to do it! You may do it either as homework, or as a class or school activity. You decide the extent of the activity. The most important thing is that the Environmental Action is something that is important for you.

Example: The Recycle Champions: We went together to the room where we recycle, to see how it looked. It was very messy in there so we decided to tidy it up. We talked to the janitor about a suitable day. Before the clean-up day, we made nice posters that show in which canisters we should deposit the different materials. Once the room was tidy, we put our new posters by the containers. We made recycling more fun!

3. Describe how your activity worked out

We can learn from and inspire each other to take action for environmental benefit. Here, you can let us know if you will continue with your Environmental Action and if you have shared it and inspired others to do the same.

Example: To make recycling easier and more fun, we made nice posters to put above each container. We then showed pupils in the other classes the nice result. Some of us, made more posters to bring home to our families, to help up recycle more and better.

Generally, if we think something is fun to do, there is a bigger chance we keep doing it. Did you come up with a good idea that makes your Environmental Action even more fun? What? How?

What has gone well? What did you learn?

Teacher's reflection of the task and its implementation:

How did you do? Was the process good, full of learning opportunities, and/or is there unexplored potentials to do this even better? Why?

4. Your Challenge entry

Pictures:

Here, you can add photos. Please, also attach the image separately in the e-mail as a .jpg-file for publishing on the internet.

Assume all material submitted can be made public and may be posted on the internet.

Motivation and inspiration

Tell us why your action for the environment is so important to you. Give us your best ideas to inspire others to take action as well!

**You have now completed the Biosphere Challenge of 2019.
Please, submit this form to: info@vanerkulle.se , no later than
April 20th, 2019.**

All participating school classes receive a diploma.

**Thank You for your participation in
The Biosphere Challenge 2019!**