

Permaculture Design Project: Grades 3-5

by

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This capstone project, known as the Permaculture Design Project Curriculum: Grades K-8, is a curriculum unit that was created to answer the research question: *How can a permaculture curriculum be developed for public school children in the United States that will teach them how to connect with nature and one another while also teaching them how to plan for a sustainable future?* This curriculum unit is based on an adaptable, project-based learning model that can be used to teach permaculture to students of all ages. It is intended for the public school system in the United States, but could also be used in private schools, for homeschooling, or by environmental organizations. In this model, students participate in a project-based learning experience that simulates the process that permaculture designers use in the real world when designing for a client. In order to demonstrate how the curriculum functions, I created a complete project for the band of grades 3-5.

The structure for the Permaculture Design Project Curriculum is outlined in the *Permaculture Design Project Curriculum Model*, a document that is included as part of this project. In this model, the permaculture design phases are grouped together into project benchmarks, which are used to organize lessons and assessments. First, students complete lessons for each phase. The lessons are based on age-appropriate permaculture foundational knowledge for 13 topics: Climate, Patterns in Nature, Water, Earth Resources, Topography, Soils, Plants, Animals, Trees, Energy, Buildings and Structures, Social Permaculture, and Permaculture Design. Simple formative assessments are built into each lesson. Student learning for each phase is measured using a benchmark assessment product that the student needs to successfully complete before moving on to the next phase. In the last phase of the project, students present the results of their final designs to the client. Cumulative learning for the project is measured through a summative assessment of the final design and presentation.

The documents created for this curriculum include the *Permaculture Design Project (PDP) Curriculum Model*, *PDP Permaculture Foundations*, *PDP Teaching and Learning Plan: Grades 3-5*, *PDP Lessons: Grades 3-5*, and the *PDP Rubric-Benchmark Products*. The documents for this project can be found in this Google Drive folder:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1lgzyFgwMu0FDfYoMtljTIU3Z1sFEtJze?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1lgzyFgwMu0FDfYoMtljTIU3Z1sFEtJze?usp=share_link)

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