

# The Ecological Approach to Lesson Planning: Real-World Relevance and Connections

The Ecological approach to lesson planning refers to any type of lesson that includes connections to people, the planet, or local and global communities.

**Experience-Based Objectives:** Teachers will be able to emphasize the context and interactions of an educational experience within the sociocultural context for learning, while maintaining flexibility to adapt to the evolving experience.

## Key Teaching Points

- \* Theoretical Framework
- \* Experience-Based Objectives
- \* Place-Based Curriculum Design
  - Investigative question
  - EBO
  - Direct exploration
  - Exploration of ecomindedness
  - Positive Action
  - Interdisciplinary elements
- \* Ecological Mindedness
  - Describe it
  - Locate it
  - Learn it
  - Live it
- \* Assessments evaluate growth and experience, or change in beliefs and calls to action

## Teaching Ideas

### **Place-Based Curriculum Design**

Teachers explore the “where are we” and “who lives here” questions through researching news articles related to their community of students. Teachers create an investigation that connects with and develops the lens of the local communities where students live and learn.

### **Ecological Mindedness**

Teachers identify a concept, skill, or idea that students can explore through the lens of interconnectedness, care, and integrity. Teachers will create a lesson plan for students to explore the concept, emphasizing how the concept shapes their beliefs and how they might act on them with integrity.

## Deeper Dive

- \* Moroye, C. M., & Ingman, B. C. (2013). Ecological mindedness across the curriculum. *Curriculum Inquiry*, 43(5), 588–612.
- \* Smith, G. A. (2002). Place-based education: Learning to be where we are. *The Phi Delta Kappan*, 83(584-594).

Discussion  
Questions  
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