



Healthy Estuary, Healthy Economy Healthy Communities

Focus/Overview

This lesson focuses on students utilizing graph & reading skills. Members of the BTNEP Management Conference selected 10 Focus questions and 34 indicators to present an overview of the environmental health of the Barataria–Terrebonne Estuary System. An environmental indicator measures the condition or health of a natural resource. Watching this measure change over time can tell us about changes in the condition of the natural resource.

Learning Objective(s)

The learner will:

- Read several types of graphs
- Answer critical thinking questions
- Identify key issues of the Estuary

Louisiana Grade Level Expectations

7-GLE-1	Analyze various types of maps, charts, graphs, and diagrams related to U.S. History (G-1A-M2)
7-GLE-34	Explain how environmental factors impact survival of a population (LS-M-D2)
7-GLE-39	Analyze the consequences of human activities on ecosystem (SE-M-A4)
8-GLE-8	Identify and describe factors that cause a Louisiana region to change (G-1B-M3)
7,8-GLE-46	Interpret information from a variety of graphic organizers including timelines, charts, schedules, tables, diagrams, and maps in grade-appropriate sources (ELA-5-M6)

Materials List

- Go online at www.btnep.org to order classroom sets of BTNEP publication: **Healthy Estuary, Healthy Economy, Healthy Communities**

Background Information

The LEAP and ITBS test have; many graphs and charts that the students are expected to read and answer questions. The charts, diagrams and graphics can be used to access weaknesses and strengths.

BTNEP Connection

Habitat, Barrier Island, Changes in Living Resources, Water Quality, Economic Development

Grade Level

7,8

Duration

Two 45-minute classes or 90-minute block

Subject Area

History, Geography, Science, Language Arts, Math

Extension Areas

- INTECH lesson (see resources)
- Students create their own graphs with information supplied by the teacher.
- Cooperative groups work together to present an issue using a graphic organizer.

Vocabulary

- Estuary
- Environmental Indicator
- Graphic organizers

Original Source (if applicable)

- Cally Chauvin
- BTNEP
- [Healthy Estuary, Healthy Economy, Healthy Communities](#) ...



Advance Preparation

- Order free BTNEP publication: **Healthy Estuary, Healthy Economy, Healthy Communities**, or download the pdf file. (btnep.org)
- Provide notes on types of graphs

Procedure

1. Have students look through the publication **Healthy Estuary, Healthy Economy, Healthy Communities ...**
2. Have the students make comments on how many different types of graphs the publication has. Write them on the board. Go over types of graphs and give notes.
3. Divide the students into pairs. Assign each group a different graph and section.
4. Their job is to become experts on their assigned section. The students must explain their section to the class using their graph as a visual aid.
5. After each group of students has presented their graphs and findings, hand out the Activity sheet.
6. Show the commercials on Wetland Loss at:
<http://www.americaswetland.com/custompage.cfm?pageid=2&cid=13>
7. Have students compare each commercial. Ask the students, "Which one impacted you the most? Why? How can a commercial or advertisement be used to bring your groups information to the public?"
8. The above activity can be done as a group or as a culminating activity. The students can create advertisements on their sections.

Blackline Master(s)

1. **Healthy Estuary, Healthy Economy, Healthy Communities ...** Activity Sheet

Assessment

1. Complete the **Healthy Estuary, Healthy Economy, Healthy Communities ...** Activity Sheet.

Resources/Websites

www.btnep.org

- ✓ **Healthy Estuary, Healthy Economy, Healthy Communities ...**
- ✓ **Saving Our Good Earth: A Call to Action**

<http://www.leeric.lsu.edu/index3.htm>– INTECH Lesson

www.nutria.com

Tradebooks:

Morcos, Ann Conti. The Tale of Nada Nutria. This book is aimed at 8–12 years olds, but its serious moral nature will appeal to all ages.

Lockwood, C.C. Louisiana Nature Guide. Students of all ages will enjoy the graphic pictures and wonderful sights of Louisiana.

