

Resources

There's a host of valuable resources on the net.

Go To: www.lysisfilms.com and hit the RESOURCES button.

Once there you'll find updates, downloads, and links to sites that will help you find out more about environmental issues and what we can do.

Feedback

Please let us know how your lessons and discussions went.

Did you find the ECO Challenge Sheet useful?

Were the students sufficiently engaged in the lessons?

Any comments, feedback, and experiences (positive and negative) most welcome.

Suggestions for changes, additions, and new reference materials are most welcome. Please email:

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The Tasmanian Collection

ECO Challenge Sheet

These documentaries, together with the ECO Challenge Sheet, have been designed to help students find a new angle on the environment and guide them to develop a deeper understanding of their connection to it and their disconnection from it.

Encourage the students to use their subjective sense as well as their objective mind to help them express what it is they wish to express in these exercises. Encourage creativity.

The DVDs are perfect for Senior High to University studies in:

Outdoor/Adventure Education

Environmental Education

Environmental Economics

Social Ecology

Deep Ecology

Ecopsychology

Anything outside-the-square

Or for challenging inside-the-square students to break out

THE SECOND STEP is also great for younger students to help with motivation, inspiration, self determination and self confidence.

The ECO Challenge sheet contains:

1/ documentary synopsis' - p2 & p3

2/ a discussion on different ways of experiencing nature - p4 & 5

3/ an essay assignment on media and the environment - p6

4/ instruction for group debate - p7

5/ concluding exercise - p7

6/ list of resources - p8

7/ feedback - p8

DVD ONE

FOR ITS OWN SAKE (22min.)
THE SECOND STEP (27min.)

FOR ITS OWN SAKE

Gary Caganoff's first film, made in 1992, filled a much needed niche in environmental education. Ahead of its time it still remains relevant 15 years on. With an eloquent interview of Senator Bob Brown of the Australian Greens and Gary's own poetic narrative structure FOR ITS OWN SAKE takes the viewer on a journey through the rugged and spectacular South West Tasmanian World Heritage Area. The film challenges the viewer to see the environment in a totally different way, and at the same time see society from outside the square.

THE SECOND STEP

In the heart of South West Tasmania's magnificent World Heritage Wilderness stands Federation Peak, one of Australia's most challenging mountains. Against all the odds double above-knee amputee Warren Macdonald spent 28 epic days hiking to and climbing the peak.

Walking away from the social constraints so readily applied to the 'disabled', and journeying into wild nature, Warren casts off the shackles and goes in search of the personal freedom he enjoyed before his horrific accident two years before.

The Second Step is the profound story of one man's extraordinary courage and determination to take back control of his life. Winner of seven international film awards Brigitte Muirr says THE SECOND STEP is, "The most inspiring film I have seen in a long, long time".

Includes extra footage and a cool music clip.

3/ Group Debate

What part does 'dogma' and 'ideology' play in the environmental debate? If you stripped those away, what would you have left? Conduct a group 'debate' where each person has a turn putting forward their own opinion on the environment. However, the rules of this debate are, that whilst talking the rest of the group must keep their own opinions to themselves – 'put them in your pocket'.

Each student must begin their talk with either the word,

'AND...' or the statement,
'I FEEL...'

The word, 'BUT' is not allowed. Also, there is no blame. No pointing the finger.

Conducted properly the 'debate' becomes a discussion helping each person understand the other's point of view without having to 'point the finger'. There is no forceful persuasion of opinions as in traditional debates. Disagreement still arises, however in the end, a foundation of understanding evolves between all.

4/ Conclusion

What then is your individual conclusion, and how now can you contribute to protecting the planet's ecology and creating a more sustainable planet?

Share your ideas with the group. Form smaller groups based on the similarity of ideas. Then, in collaboration with your friends, write a list of the steps needed to achieve your goals.

Hint: Start by asking yourself, 'in what ways can I change how I live my life that won't be so hurtful to the environment?' This should include the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual aspects of your life.

2/ Essay on the Media

Study the mainstream mass electronic and print media for stories that interest you and see how the environment is portrayed. Is it for human exploitation or is it for preservation for its own sake?

Then study alternative media (see page 8 for suggested links) and research the stories further, paying particular attention to their points of view.

Write an essay on society's portrayal of the environment through the media, incorporating your thoughts of the following opinion:

One Viewpoint on Mass Media

"The media, being the main disseminator of information into the community has a responsibility to inform the public so people can form their own opinions and make informed decisions. It must be realised that this dissemination of information is flawed because not all information is made available and it's a one-way process. There is no room for debate. Only information that is of interest to the machinations of the dominant economic driven society are of interest to the mainstream corporate media. The emotional philosophical and ideological opinions of the environmentalists are both consciously and unconsciously ignored, thus choking any debate on our destructive social value system. The reason why the media don't represent the environmentalist's philosophical and ideological viewpoint is because they don't understand it themselves. The media are a product of the dominant paradigm which fails to see the philosophical difference. They simply can't see outside the square."

(Gary Caganoff, 2001)

DVD TWO:

TARKINER PANER (22min.)

MANIFESTATIONS (25min.)

ARCHIVAL NEWS FOOTAGE (7min.)

TARKINER PANER was made for the Tasmanian Wilderness Society in 1993 to accompany the written proposal to list the Tarkine wilderness as World Heritage. The 22 minute film highlights the Tarkine's incredible ecological values and takes a look at it's indigenous history in regards to the Tarkiners who inhabited the area for more than 500 generations before they were 'rounded up' by the colonial governments of the time. This film helped boost the profile of the remote and largely unknown Tarkine wilderness - making it the hottest environmental topic in the country.

Two years later the Tarkine became Australia's biggest environmental battle of its time. Environmentalists spent two years trying to stop the government bulldozing a road through the heart of the 350,000 hectare wilderness. The film MANIFESTATIONS is a tribute to the thousands of people who spent their time trying to stop the road, especially the young full time activists who became known through the media as the 'Tarkine Tigers'.

Most of the footage was shot by the protesters themselves. Along with some of his own footage Gary has edited this to a 25 minute commemoration/celebration. Set to Beethoven's 9th the film is a vox pop of images of the Tarkine experience. Like few other films MANIFESTATIONS captures the underlying spirit of environmental activism.

Includes archival news footage for reference.

1/ Paradigms - Different Ways of Experiencing

The environmental terms that are familiar to us today, such as 'Reduce – Reuse – Recycle', 'Eco-tourism', 'Environmental Impact Statement', 'Ecological Footprint', 'Global Warming', etc., were virtually unheard of 20 years ago, although the Reuse – Recycle ethic was pure common sense for our grandparents and those before them. The current environmental trend of our modern disposable world is an expression of care for the environment, but where does it come from? And what are the underlying philosophies that have begun to make us more aware of our 'sense of place' on the planet? We seem to be doing stuff to stop damaging the natural environment but there is also a sense of urgency to do more. But what more can we do?

There are loads more things we can do but before we can do it we must learn to experience the world in a completely different way than to the way we experience it now. All the people in these films have a deep connection to the land and in their own way understand the consequences of further destruction of the environment.

Exercise: In the film THE SECOND STEP Warren Macdonald expresses his love of the wilderness. Explain why this should be so important for him - especially after his accident. How do you feel he experiences nature, especially the wild environment?

Encourage yourself to go out and experience some nature for some time. Putting aside your cognitive reasoning, scientific classifications, opinions and bias', see if you can feel the nature of truth in the trees, the rocks, the mountains, the river, and all the creatures that live in these places. You may soon find that there are different ways of experiencing the natural world: either disconnected and isolated from it, as a connected functioning part of its diverse multifunctional

matrix, or somewhere in between. When it comes to environmental debate this is one of the fundamental difference of opinions between people.

In the film MANIFESTIONS, one environmentalist talks about the vindictive attitudes of others that went far beyond the clash of ideologies. Discuss the difference in both side's ideologies: one based on the acceptance and understanding that everything is interconnected, and the other based on fear, isolation, and separation.

Q. What are the personal aspects that motivate these points of view? E.g., compassion, fear, etc....? Try and elaborate further on these points.

Another example of a different way of experiencing the wild environment is in the film MANIFESTATIONS. In the opening scenes we read the text:

Truth is a manifestation of Nature.

Nature knows only Truth

Lies manifest with the (human) need to hide the truth

Q. What is the filmmaker wishing to express with these words?

Discuss how truth actually does manifest in nature.

Q. How do you know it is the truth?

Q. How does nature know 'truth'?

The filmmaker tells us in his essay on The Nature of Truth (see p8 to download a copy) that by exploring the truth of nature he is also exploring the Nature of Truth. Explain what he means by this in the context of this inquiry on the different ways of experiencing nature.