

PROJECT GO – LESSON PLAN

Topic: Waste Words & Sustainability (Years 4–6)

Understanding important sustainability words and how they connect to the environment



Overview

Project GO is a sustainability education program that helps students understand waste, recycling, and caring for the environment through storytelling, characters, and real-world problem solving.

This lesson focuses on helping students **understand important sustainability and waste vocabulary** used throughout Project GO. Through discussion, problem solving, and a crossword activity, students explore words connected to recycling, composting, landfill, pollution, and natural resources, and connect them to real-world environmental actions.

This lesson is designed to work directly with the **Project GO Years 4–6 Worksheet 2** and can be delivered as a stand-alone classroom activity or alongside other Project GO resources.

Objective

This lesson aims to help students:

- Recognise and understand important **sustainability vocabulary**
- Connect **waste and recycling** concepts to real-world environmental issues
- Develop problem-solving and literacy skills through a **crossword activity**

By completing the crossword activity, students reinforce their understanding that waste and sustainability concepts are **connected to the choices people make** at home, school, and in the community.

Materials

- Whiteboard or interactive screen
- **PROJECT GO Years 4–6 Worksheet 2: “Ned Jelly’s Crossword” (one per student)**
- Whiteboard markers
- Pencils or pens

Lesson plan

1. Review & Introduction (10 minutes)

Begin with a class discussion reviewing key ideas from Project GO.

Ask students:

- What does **sustainability** mean?
- Why is **sorting waste** important?
- What happens when waste goes into **landfill**?
- How can **recycling and composting** help the environment?

Explain that:

- Sustainability means making choices that help **protect the environment** for the future
- Many important words help us understand **waste and recycling systems**
- Learning these words helps us make better **environmental choices**

Write the following words on the board:

- Recycling
- Compost
- Landfill
- Pollution
- Reuse
- Natural Resources

Discuss what students already know about each word.

2. Explore - Sustainability Words in Action (10 minutes)

Review the vocabulary clues from the worksheet together.

Discuss:

- What are **natural resources**?
- Why is **pollution** harmful?
- What happens when waste is **reused or recycled**?
- Why is **compost** useful for gardens and plants?

Reinforce that:

- Recycling and composting help **reduce landfill**
- Pollution can harm the environment
- Natural resources are **valuable** and should be protected
- Everyone can help by **sorting waste** correctly and making sustainable choices

Explain that students are now going to practise these important words through a Project GO crossword challenge.

3. Activity – Ned Jelly’s Crossword (25 minutes)

Distribute the **Project GO Years 4–6 Worksheet 2** to each student.

Explain the task step-by-step:

1. Read each crossword clue carefully
2. Match the clue to the correct sustainability word
3. Fill in the crossword puzzle
4. Use the “**Words to Know**” section on the Project GO website if needed

Encourage students to:

- Sound out unfamiliar words
- Think about how the words connect to the environment
- Use clues from intersecting words to help solve the puzzle

Support students by:

- Assisting with vocabulary meanings where needed
- Encouraging partner discussion
- Prompting students to explain their thinking

Once completed:

- Review the answers together as a class
- Discuss how each word connects to sustainability and waste management

Reinforce the key message:

Understanding sustainability words helps us make better choices for the environment.

4. Reflect & Connect (10 minutes)

Discuss as a class:

- Which crossword clue was the easiest?
- Which word was new or challenging?
- Which sustainability word do you think is the most important, and why?

Optional extension:

- Ask students to write one sentence using a vocabulary word correctly
- Invite students to describe one sustainable action they could take at home or school

Australian Curriculum (ACiQ v9) Connections

English

- Language
- Literacy
- Vocabulary development and comprehension

Science

- Science understanding - Biological sciences
- Science as a human endeavour - Use and influence of science

HASS

- Knowledge and understanding – Geography
- Skills – Communicating

General Capabilities

- Literacy
- Critical and Creative Thinking
- Personal and Social Capability

Cross-Curriculum Priority

- Sustainability

Where to Find More Additional Project GO digital stories, activities, and resources are available for students, teachers, and families to continue learning at:

PROJECT-GO.COM.AU