



# WILD & SCENIC<sup>®</sup> FILM FESTIVAL

where activism gets inspired

## 6th-8th Grade Curriculum Overview

**Discussion Questions:** Discussion questions for each film are included to engage the class in conversations around the themes present in the films.

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**Lesson 1:** Environmental Action Plan

**Accompanying Film:** Healing Giants, Reforesting California After Wildfire, Friends of the Frogpool Lane

**Standard Alignment:** NGSS.MS.ESS3.3

**Lesson Overview:** This activity combines the themes of Healing Giants, Reforesting California After Wildfire, and Friends of the Frogpool Lane. These films all explore how different stakeholders in communities are addressing various environmental issues. In this activity, students will identify an environmental issue in their community and then break into groups representing different stakeholders. They will brainstorm what their goals for the environment are as a stakeholder, and what they can do to either help or hurt the issue. Finally, there will be a community meeting, in which all of the stakeholders will come together and make a final action plan that satisfies everyone.

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**Lesson 2:** Bring the Heat: Fire Ecology Game

**Accompanying Film:** Reforesting California After Wildfire

**Standard Alignment:** NGSS.MS.LS2.1, NGSS.MS.LS2.4

**Lesson Overview:** The film, Reforesting California After Wildfire, takes a look at increasing large, high-severity wildfires in California and the people who are trying to reforest the 1.5 million burned acres across the state. The Reforestation Pipeline Partnership between American Forests, the U.S. Forest Service, and CAL FIRE exists to remove barriers to reforestation and rapidly increase the scale and pace of restoration. In this activity, students will examine their ideas about wildfires through discussion, play a fire ecology game, and then reevaluate their ideas about wildfire.

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**Lesson 3:** Island Survival: A Biogeography Adventure

**Accompanying Film:** Friends of the Frogpool Lane

**Standard Alignment:** NGSS.MS.LS2.4

**Lesson Overview:** The film, Friends of the Frogpool Lane, follows the efforts of a community to assist frogs and other amphibians in their migration to a vernal pool. During this activity, students will learn the basic premise of the theory of island biogeography. They will then take this theory and model it by making dioramas in groups to create two different island chains and the various species on them. This theory will help them understand the importance of habitat connectivity for species survival.