



WILD & SCENIC[®] FILM FESTIVAL

where activism gets inspired

2026 9th-12th 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.

Lesson 1: Battle of the Thermal Masses Lab

Accompanying Film: *Powering a Nation with the Sun*

Standard Alignment: NGSS-HS-PS3-3, NGSS-HS-LS2-7

Lesson Overview: The film *Powering a Nation with the Sun* showcases the efforts of Indigenous-led organization, Native Renewables in providing off-grid solar power solutions to Hopi and Diné (Navajo) families. In this activity, students will learn the difference between active and passive solar energy. They will investigate the thermal energy storage capacities of different test materials to determine which to use in passive solar building design.

Lesson 2: Impacts of Mining through Cookie Mining

Accompanying Film: *Monumental Moment*

Standard Alignment: NGSS-HS-ESS3-2

Lesson Overview: The film *Monumental Moment* follows a young Havasupai woman as she and 13 tribes, whose ancestral homelands lie near the Grand Canyon, fight to protect the environment, the aquifers, and their homelands. This activity has students explore the environmental impacts of mining by mining the chocolate chips from a cookie.

Lesson 3: The Power of Self-Love

Accompanying Film: *Hello, Beautiful*

Standard Alignment: CCSS.ELA-Writing.W.9-10.4, CCSS.ELA-Writing.W.11-12.4
CA Transformative Social and Emotional Learning (T-SEL)
Competencies: T-SEL.2.A.4, T-SEL.2.B.4.

Lesson Overview: The film *Hello, Beautiful* follows elite climber Alannah Yip and the healing journey she goes through after her alopecia universalis diagnosis. In this SEL activity, students will develop their sense of self by meditating, doing a strengths worksheet, journaling with provided prompts, and creating an affirmation jar.