

**Codorus Creek Improvement Partnership (CCIP)  
Elementary Level Living Classroom Lesson Plan  
Humans and the Environment**

**Objectives:**

- 1) Aid instructors in teaching PA Environmental Education criteria for 4.8.4
- 2) Increase student awareness of local habitat and ecosystems.
- 3) Provide access to tangible teaching materials.
- 4) Introduce the idea of stream restoration and conservation to students.
- 5) Illustrate the positive and negative effects of human interaction with the environment.

This lesson plan is intended for smaller classes (20<). It is also suggested that another supervisor can come besides the teacher to create smaller more manageable groups.

**Materials:**

- Clipboards
- Pen or Pencil
- Copy of Willis Run Environment Questions Handout

**Lesson Outline**

Part 1- Explain the concept of Codorus Creek Improvement Partnership's efforts to restore Willis Run and why. (10-15 Minutes)

**Things to Include:**

- a) Willis Run is a tributary to Codorus Creek
- b) Restoring of buffer zone and what it does
- c) The city gets it's water from the Codorus Creek
- d) Effort to restore ecosystem to sustain life (mention endangered species such as egrets and black-crowned knight heron)
- e) Offers better value and atmosphere to community

Part 2- Separate students into small groups (Preferably two students per group but no more than four students per group). (30-40 minutes)

- 1) In groups hand out one copy of Willis Run worksheet, writing utensil and a clipboard.
- 2) Give students time to gather information from the surroundings to answer the questions (Roughly 15-20 minutes to answer questions).
- 3) Once students collect information bring groups back together and have one person from each group share ideas with class.
- 4) Collect papers from groups.

Part 3- This is designed to review the Watershed around Willis Run with the students and point out specific examples of human activity and the effects on the watershed.

- 1) If an extra teacher or instructor is available, separate the larger class into two groups to make them more manageable.
- 2) Instructor will tour their groups through Willis Run restoration area providing examples of how humans have affected the watershed both positively and negatively.
- 3) Start group at buffer zone restoration area at drain pipe and head down mowed trail to the concrete canal area. If another teacher is taking a group from the same class, start them at the opposite end at canal and work up to buffer zone restoration point.
- 4) Terms to use:
  - a. Conservation
  - b. Restoration
  - c. Buffer Zone
  - d. Erosion
  - e. Run-Off
  - f. Habitat
  - g. Endangered
  - h. Land-Use
  - i. Watershed