



Why the Great Green Wall Matters for Our Planet

By Ariel Presswood

Grow with Nature | Act for the Planet | Inspire Resilience

This activity and summary sheet set explores the transformative initiative known as the Great Green Wall, highlighting its efforts to combat desertification, mitigate climate change, and promote sustainable development. Through engaging activities, educational insights, and reflective prompts, participants will discover how reforestation can restore ecosystems, enhance biodiversity, and create opportunities for communities. Join us as we delve into the importance of planting trees for a greener and healthier planet.

Introduction

Blog Summary

The Great Green Wall is an ambitious reforestation project stretching across 11 African countries, aiming to combat desertification and restore degraded lands. Ariel's blog outlines the initiative's key goals: halting the Sahara Desert's expansion, mitigating climate change, enhancing biodiversity, and improving livelihoods. By involving local communities, the project fosters environmental stewardship and sustainable practices. Ariel inspires readers to take part in reforestation efforts, emphasizing the collective power of planting trees to create a brighter future.

Memory Quote

Inspired by Ariel: "Every tree planted grows a greener, stronger planet."

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Reflection Questions

Understanding the Great Green Wall

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1. How does planting trees help prevent desertification?
2. Why is biodiversity important for ecosystems?
3. How can restored lands improve the lives of local communities?

The Role of Climate Action

1. How does reforestation contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions?
2. Why is it important for countries to collaborate on climate initiatives?
3. How can learning about the Great Green Wall inspire us to take climate action?

Personal and Community Impact

1. What small steps can you take to help the environment in your community?
2. How can tree planting inspire teamwork and connection with nature?
3. What other environmental projects inspire you, and why?

Section 1: Interactive Activities

Activity 1: Design a Mini Green Wall

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Objective: Create a model of the Great Green Wall, showcasing its features and benefits.

Materials Needed:

- Recycled cardboard, paper, or felt.
- Small plants, twigs, or leaves for decoration.
- Markers, paints, and glue.
- Printable templates for maps and tree designs.

Instructions:

1. Research the layout and key regions of the Great Green Wall.
2. Build a model using recycled materials, highlighting vegetation, habitats, and restored areas.
3. Label the key components and explain their significance.

Reflection: How did building the model deepen your understanding of reforestation? What features did you find most inspiring?

Activity 2: Create a Tree Planting Plan

Objective: Develop a plan for a local tree-planting project, emphasizing native species and environmental benefits.

Materials Needed:

- Paper, pencils, and markers.
- Printable planning templates.
- Reference materials on native tree species.

Instructions:

1. Identify a location for your tree-planting project, such as a park or schoolyard.
2. Research native tree species suitable for the area.
3. Outline steps for planting and maintaining the trees, including community involvement.

Reflection: How did planning a tree-planting project inspire you to take environmental action? What challenges might arise, and how could you overcome them?

Activity 3: Design an Environmental Awareness Poster

Objective: Create a visually engaging poster to raise awareness about the Great Green Wall and its global impact.

Materials Needed:

- Poster board or printable templates.
- Markers, colored pencils, and decorative items.
- Reference materials on the Great Green Wall.

Instructions:

1. Research the goals and benefits of the Great Green Wall.
2. Design a poster that highlights its significance and inspires others to take action.
3. Share your poster with your family, friends, or community.

Reflection: How did creating a poster help you communicate the importance of reforestation? What message do you hope others take away from your work?

5. Memory Quote Challenge

Objective: Memorize the inspirational quote: “Every tree planted grows a greener, stronger planet.”

Instructions:

1. Divide the quote into smaller parts and assign each segment to participants.
2. Recite the quote together, gradually building confidence to say it from memory.
3. Add hand motions or rhythm to make memorization engaging and fun.

6. Practical Applications

Environmental Action Journal

Instructions:

1. Write daily reflections on how reforestation inspires environmental care.
2. Sketch ideas for community projects that support tree planting and restoration.

Family Green Initiative Guide

Structure:

- Monday: Learn about the Great Green Wall and its environmental impact.
- Tuesday: Research native tree species and their benefits.
- Wednesday: Plan a family tree-planting event or garden project.
- Thursday: Design mini models or posters to raise awareness.
- Friday: Share your plans and ideas with friends or neighbors.
- Saturday: Plant trees or contribute to a local reforestation project.
- Sunday: Reflect on how these actions contribute to a healthier planet.

7. Closing Reflection

Gratitude Journal Entry

- Prompt: “How has learning about the Great Green Wall inspired me to care for the planet?”
- Prompt: “What steps can I take to support reforestation and environmental restoration?”

Take-Home Question

- “What lessons from the Great Green Wall can I apply to create a greener future in my community?”

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