

# “M” is for *Mālama* (Caring)



Grade 1

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## Lesson at a Glance

Students perform caring actions toward the environment and make *mālama* badges to wear.

## Key Concept

The well-being of people and other living things requires that people work to keep the environment healthy.

## Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Do at least one caring thing for the environment.
- 2) Illustrate a badge that shows how they helped the environment.

## Time

Two class periods

## Subject Areas

Hawaiian studies, art

## Materials

Note to parents (provided)  
Badge cutouts (provided)  
Colored markers  
Safety pins  
Oak tag\*



## Preparation

\*Copy the *mālama* badges onto oak tag or card stock paper and cut them out.

## Teaching Suggestions

1. Generate a discussion about caring or *mālama*. Ask children to describe how they take care of other things in their lives (e.g., pets, siblings, toys, garden).
2. Ask them to describe ways that people can take care of the environment. Examples of *mālama*:
  - disposing of litter properly
  - recycling paper, cans and bottles
  - watering/fertilizing plants
  - conserving paper
  - conserving water in the home and school
  - conserving electricity
  - respecting other living things (e.g., by not carving into trees or breaking branches, not killing lizards or non-pest insects)
  - walking or riding a bike or the bus instead of asking for rides
  - reducing use of plastics

3. Distribute the note for students to take home to parents. Ask students to perform at least one act of caring for the environment and to be prepared to tell their classmates about their efforts on the following day.
4. When students report on their efforts, record a list of all of their caring actions and discuss their feelings about these actions.

#### Discussion Questions

- Was your helping action easy or difficult?
  - Did you give up something in order to care for the environment? Was it worth it?
  - What kinds of things could you do for the environment every day?
  - How could you interest other friends and family members in helping nature?
- ✓ 5. Distribute art supplies and have students illustrate their actions on a *mālama* badge. If desired, laminate the badges for the children.
  6. Pin the badges on and have students wear them at recess and lunch time to generate the interest of other classes.

#### **Extended Activities**

- Go on a litter hunt and clean up the schoolyard, see “Put Litter in its Place,” Humans and the Environment, Grade K. Use the litter to create unsightly litter critters or monsters. Staple these to a bulletin board display. When the display is taken down, recycle any cans and paper.
- Have students paint an aluminum garbage can with colorful designs that urge others to dispose of litter properly. Ask a custodian to chain the can to an area for the schoolyard or place it in a heavily used hallway. Have separate cans for recyclable cans and bottles.
- Plant flowers in an area of the schoolyard and have children water, weed, and fertilize them. Be sure to supervise the fertilizing and use organic materials such as bone meal and fish emulsion. Keep journals of how long the flowers take to grow and how often they need water.

Date:

School:



Dear Parents:

Our class is learning about ways to keep the environment healthy and beautiful. We have discussed ways that people can care for the environment by conserving resources such as water and paper. We have also learned about respecting and caring for other living things.

Before returning to school tomorrow, each student has agreed to do one thing that shows *mālama* or caring for our Hawaiian environment. Please discuss this with your child and guide his/her efforts. Student actions may be as simple as picking up litter or watering a tree. The environment thanks you!

Aloha,

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