

# COMMITTING TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

## LESSON STARTER FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL KUMU



“Lesson starters” are guides that provide initial scaffolding for a lesson, allowing kumu to build out the lesson further by incorporating additional activities and resources of their own.



### RATIONALE & GOALS

By recognizing the impact their daily choices have on the environment, students can adopt a navigator mindset to plan a new “sail path” for the future, setting goals for sustainable actions that they will take to mālama our planet.

Goals for this lesson are to:

- Understand the impact of human actions on the environment.
- Sign a pledge to commit to taking action for a sustainable earth through the #voyage4earth campaign.



### ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What are “sustainable practices?”
- How do we play a role in the environmental issues we have today?
- How can we change our behavior to positively impact the future of our planet?



### OPENING DISCUSSION

1. Begin by discussing the impact of human actions on the environment and the importance of sustainable practices.
2. Ask students to brainstorm examples of environmental issues they are aware of, and write them on chart paper or a whiteboard.
3. Discuss the examples as a class, focusing on data and trends related to the issues, and emphasizing the need for individual and collective action to address them.



### TAKE THE PLEDGE

#### Voyage-4-Earth Pledge

<https://hokulea.com/wp-content/uploads/Voyage4Earth-Coloring-Sheet.pdf>



- Introduce the #voyage4earth campaign by showing the students the campaign website <https://hokulea.com/moananuiakea/#voyage4earth> and explaining its goals (e.g. raising awareness about environmental issues and inspiring action).
- Encourage students to reflect on how they can commit to taking action for a sustainable earth.
- Engage students in a discussion about what actions they can take to help through the #voyage4earth campaign. Brainstorm a list of ideas as a class and write them on the whiteboard.
- Pass out printed copies of the pledge to each student and invite them to come up with how they will #voyage4earth and make their own pledge.
- Encourage students to support the campaign by sharing their pledges on social media or with their school community.



### CONCLUSION

- Ask students to share one action they plan to take to help protect the environment through the #voyage4earth campaign.
- Remind students that by participating in the campaign, they are joining a global community of people who care about the environment and want to make a positive impact.
- Encourage them to share their experiences with family and friends and invite them to join the campaign as well.