

Flexible Grouping

Grade Level: 8

Subject: Geography

Focus: Human Impact on the Environment

Strategy Highlighted: Flexible Grouping

Learning Goal:

Students will explore how human activities affect the environment and propose ways to reduce negative impacts.

Flexible Grouping in Practice	Purpose
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whole class• Mixed-ability pairs• Task-based groups• Rotating groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build background knowledge: use shared content.• Analyze environmental impacts: use visuals.• Collaborate to create and present solutions.• Explore multiple perspectives through group work.

Adaptations for ELLs

- Word bank with key terms (pollution, deforestation, climate change, reduce, reuse, recycle)
- Sentence frames: “One way that people affect the environment is _____. This causes _____.”
- Graphic organizers for showing cause and effect
- Visual prompts and infographics
- Choice in how to present ideas (draw, write, speak)

Materials Needed

- Set of environmental issue cards (e.g., oil spills, deforestation, plastic pollution)
- Cause-and-effect chart template
- Poster paper or slide deck access
- Word bank handouts and visuals

Instructional Plan

Step 1: Whole-Class Introduction (15 minutes)

Grouping: Whole class

- Show images of environmental problems (e.g., polluted river, forest fire).
- Ask:
 - “What do you think caused this?”
 - “Who does it affect?”
- Introduce vocabulary using visuals and examples.
- Model how to complete a Cause-and-Effect Chart.

Step 2: Partner Work (15-20 minutes)

Grouping: Mixed-ability pairs

- Give each pair one issue card (e.g., air pollution).
- Students complete a graphic organizer to explain:
 - The human activity causing the issue
 - The environmental effect
 - A possible solution
- Provide sentence frames for support.

Step 3: Group Project (25-30 minutes)

Grouping: Task-based small groups (assigned by issue or choice)

Each group creates a **mini campaign** to raise awareness and suggest action:

Options:

- Poster or slideshow
- Skit or roleplay
- Infographic or comic strip
- Public service announcement script

Students choose roles (writer, speaker, designer) based on comfort level and strengths.

Step 4: Share & Reflect (10-15 minutes)

Grouping: Whole class

- Groups present or display their campaigns.

Class discussion:

“What human activities seem most harmful?”

“What solutions were creative or realistic?”

“What did you learn from your group members?”