

Main activity

Have students reconnect with the driving question: ***How can we learn to be better protectors of the Earth?***

Explain that in this project, not only will we be learning about different things related to the Earth and humans, but we will be sharing out our learning with an audience outside the class. Ask students, “why is it important for you to be able to share what you’re learning with somebody other than me (the teacher) and your classmates?” Allow students time to think about this.

Read the “You Matter Manifesto” to students (Angela Maiers, 2011) which is linked on teacher slides. After each line, ask students to repeat as a class. This affirmation is intended to help students feel that they have power and influence to make a change to solve problems in their world. It is an opportunity for you to shift the deficit or fixed-mindsets that students may have internalized over their years of schooling. Assure students that you believe that each and every one of them matters.