



Curriculum Units by Fellows of the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute  
2021 Volume IV: The Earth's Greenhouse and Global Warming

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## **Systems For Survival: The Effects of Climate Change in Connecticut**

Guide for Curriculum Unit 21.04.06  
by Michelle Romanelli

This eight lesson unit was designed to introduce elementary students to our constant changing world due to different variables like climate change, sea level rise, and the greenhouse effect. Specifically, students will be able to describe the environmental effects on a habit or ecosystem and various species from Connecticut. Additionally, students will be able to explain how different animals and species have reacted to challenges in their environment and ecosystem. Some of the specific animals that this unit will focus on are the saltmarsh sparrow and the marbled salamanders, New England lobsters and the product maple syrup.

Within the unit, students will also have the opportunity to research other species who may be thriving or dying in various areas like Connecticut, the East Coast or other areas of the United States of America. Within the unit there are hands on activities and field trips students opportunities. Ultimately, the goal of this unit is for students to find their voice and create change to help reduce climate change in their own communities. This campaign will help students alert the community with the challenges of climate change and sea level rise that are being faced in their surrounding neighborhoods.

(Developed for Science, Non Fiction Reading, and Non Fiction Writing, grade 4; recommended for Science, Non Fiction Reading, and Non Fiction Writing, grades 3 and 5)

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