

# We've Only Got One Planet

Songs that teach kids (and grownups)  
about the environment.



**Denise Gagné**  
**Themes & Variations**

**Teacher's Handbook includes piano accompaniment, reproducible student lyric/dialogue pages, classroom activities, movement & staging suggestions.**

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By Denise Gagné

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1-888-562-4647 sales@musicplay.ca www.musicplay.ca  
#3 4664 Riverside Drive - Red Deer, AB T4N 6Y5 - Canada

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# Introduction

Concern about the environment, and the future of our world is in everybody's thoughts today. I hope that this set of songs will help to make students, teachers and parents more aware of environmental problems, and solutions to these problems.

Topics for discussion and suggested activities are included for each song. There are many different problems with our environment, and one set of songs cannot look at all of them. I've chosen to look at the problems that children can do something about.

This handbook contains classroom activities, piano accompaniments, staging and movement ideas, and reproducible student handouts with dialogue and lyrics for the environmental revue. You are permitted to photocopy the student handouts for your class. Complete performance tracks and accompaniment tracks are included as well.

You will find in this set a variety of styles, meters, tempos and modes. There are 2 songs that have an optional second part, that is easily learned by Grade 4 and 5 students.

I'd like to thank the Red Deer Public School Board for their support in helping complete this project.



# 1. One Planet

## **Discussion:**

Focus the discussion around the words in the song “we’re using our resources faster than they can renew, polluting air and water”

Ask the children to give examples of air and water pollution. They are well informed and will have lots of them. Brainstorm for ways that we can help to reduce pollution.

Make sure that the children understand what resources are - renewable and non-renewable, and have the children give examples of each. Have them come up with examples of resources that are being used faster than they can renew. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- \* South American Rainforest
- \* North American Forests
- \* Oil

## **Activities:**

1. Have students bring newspaper clippings or magazine articles about pollution or environmental issues. Post them on a classroom bulletin board.
2. Plan a clean-up day for the class or for the school. Clean up the school yard, the neighborhood or the town.
3. Identify causes of pollution in your city or town. Discuss what could be done to reduce pollution. Write letters to City Council, or members of the legislature asking them to help.
4. Have a guest speaker in from an environmental awareness organization.
5. Have students make posters illustrating what they think the song is about.

## **Musical Notes:**

Make up raps about pollution. If you do not have a tape of rap tracks, use the rhythm accompaniment on a home keyboard. Young children could contribute to a class rap. Older children will be able to make up their own.

## **Movement Ideas:**

The slow repetitive lyrics of One Planet lend themselves very nicely to signing. Don’t try to sign every word - choose the key words only.

# 1. One Planet

$\bullet = 84$  *mf* D. Gagné

We've on - ly got one plan - et for

*mf*

4

all of us to share. The time has come for eve - ry - one to show the world we care.

7

Old Moth - er Na - ture is do - ing all she can. The time has come for eve - ry - one to

*mf*

# We've Only Got One Planet - A Musical Revue

Open with: We've Only Got One Planet

## 1. One Planet

We've only got one planet, for all of us to share  
The time has come for everyone to show the world we care  
Old Mother Nature is doing all she can  
The time has come for everyone to lend a helping hand.

One planet, one planet, made by God for all to share  
One planet, one planet, time to show we care

We're using our resources faster than they can renew  
Polluting air and water - what can children do?  
Every person on the earth can help to keep it clean  
Young and old can do their part to keep it evergreen.

One planet, one planet, made by God for all to share  
One planet, one planet, time to show we care

### Scene 1:

Child 1: What kind of pollution problems do we have here in \_\_\_\_\_?

Child 2: We have lots of problems!

Child 3: Like what?

Child 4: Well - our landfill is getting full. We're making too much garbage!

## 2. Garbage

Chorus: Garbage, garbage in the can. Leave it for the garbage man.  
He will take it all away  
When the world's full of garbage where will we play?

No good stuff that once was new. Junk mail, flyers, tin cans too.  
Newspapers, apple peels, diapers PEW! Last nights yucky leftover stew!

Chorus

Rust cars with lots of dents. Bikes and toys all wrecked and bent.  
Ugly clothes my Aunty sent. Ever wonder where they went?

Chorus

Garbage, garbage, garbage, garbage....in the can. YUCK!

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