

Friends,

Here's a wonderful book that I came across that transfers very easily into First Day School lessons.

The Future of the Earth: An introduction to Sustainable Development by Yann Arthus-Bertrand is a terrific Earthcare resource for your First Day School. (ISBN 0-8109-5018-9) It is well-suited to either a class of same-aged children or a class that spans several years. The text can be read by Upper Elementary School children but the book will captivate younger children with the reading and explanation help of an adult.

The book is organized around 33 absolutely stunning aerial photographs. Each one illustrates an important environmental concept or social justice implication of a resource use. The text is as beautifully crafted as the pictures. It is clear and succinct and weaves in themes of simplicity, sharing, community, fair trade, the plight of refugees, and the impact of wars on the environment. It is practically a Testimony on every page! (In fact you could organize a lesson around "Name That Testimony" as you go through the book.) It poses questions, encourages changes in behavior and consumption patterns, and even offers hopeful new directions.

This book is a gem and well worth the price of \$16.95. (This is not the one listed in Quaker Books.) It will engage imaginations and hearts at home just as well as in First Day School. This is a wonderful choice for a holiday gift!

(A second book by the same author Earth From Above for Young Readers won't work as well in a First Day School. The theme is less clear and the text is less overtly instructive.)

Here's a Crazy Question: Would there be any interest in a circulating collection of materials? What kinds of things do you need? We'd have to experiment with the logistics. We could mail it to you or arrange for a transfer at an NEYM function and you could do the same covering postage.

This book is so beautiful and instructive, each page is like a museum display. I've thought of buying 2 copies and cutting them up to create bulletin board displays. I'd laminate them for durability. Perhaps other Meetings would enjoy these as well. If the cutting and piecing together of the pictures works, I'd be willing to share them! We could test out the idea of circulating materials.

Send feedback, questions, resource suggestions, and wonderful lesson ideas my way and I'll share them with the community of NEYM First Day School teachers.

Blessings on your work,
Beth