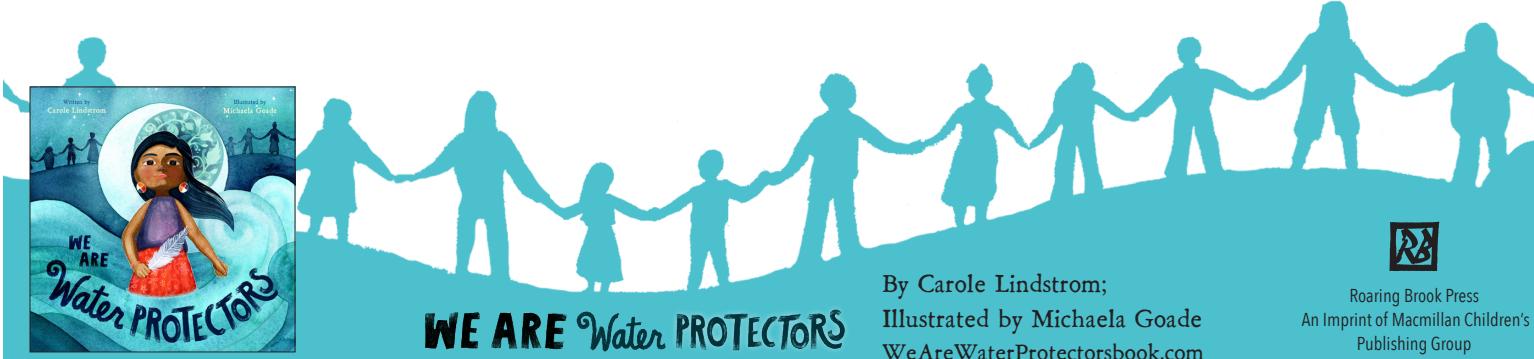


WE ARE Water PROTECTORS

Activity Kit

We Are Water Protectors issues an urgent rallying cry to safeguard the Earth's water from harm and corruption. Complete these *We Are Water Protectors* activities and learn about ways to make an impact in your community and further protect the Earth and our waters in everyday life.

The content in this kit was originally adapted from the Inspired Community Engagement Guide, which was prepared by Jessica Ellison, a teacher educator at the Minnesota Historical Society. Jessica creates professional development and curriculum for social studies teachers and is a strong advocate for community engagement at all ages. She currently serves on her local school board.



WE ARE Water PROTECTORS

By Carole Lindstrom;
Illustrated by Michaela Goade
WeAreWaterProtectorsbook.com



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A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

Dear Friend,

Miigwech, thank you, for taking the pledge to become a Water Protector! That means so much to me.

Let me tell you just a little about what inspired my story.

When I first learned about Standing Rock back in August 2016, I was overwhelmed by what was going on and the lack of national attention that this important matter was receiving. "Water is Life," and Anishinaabe women have a very important role as caretakers of the water. I am Anishinaabe, and a citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe.

Feeling helpless, I didn't know what one small person like me could do. I live on the East Coast, and at the time my son was very young, so it wasn't easy for me to get to Standing Rock. I decided that I would write a book to help educate young people about the importance of water and how we must protect it and care for it. But we need everyone's help. Especially our young people. Because they are the future.

And that's where *We Are Water Protectors* began.

Your commitment and dedication to protecting our most valuable resource is greatly appreciated.

In Ojibwe, we say, *Aaniin*, which means, I see the light in you. So I say, *Aaniin*, to you for your commitment to and support for our planet and our water.

Chi miigwech,

Carole



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND TOPICS

1. How is water important to you and your daily life? Brainstorm all the ways we use water every day. Talk about where your water comes from. Come up with ideas to protect and save your water.
2. Look at the last two pages of the book, featuring many indigenous people. Learn about the indigenous people who live near you today and the people who lived in your place long ago.
3. What is the black snake that is poisoning the water, plants, animals, and land? Discuss environmental concerns in your community and what you can do to be better stewards for the Earth.
4. In the book, a young girl talks about fighting for those who cannot fight for themselves—the animals, plants, trees, rivers, and lakes. How can you fight for them? What resources exist in your community that help aid those that cannot fight for themselves?
5. "The four-legged, the two-legged, the plants, trees, rivers, lakes, the Earth. We are all related." Discuss the ways in which the Earth and all its creatures are related.

TIPS AND TRICKS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Use these tips and tricks to learn about community and the ways you can be an active participant.

HOW TO IDENTIFY ACTIVISM

- ◊ Identify local activities that impact you directly and discuss how diverse voices are being reflected.
- ◊ Invite community members to visit your group and talk about their efforts to promote change.

HOW TO SHOWCASE YOUR VOICE

- ◊ Identify young people currently taking action to make a change.
- ◊ Highlight how kids and grown-ups can take action.

WAYS TO ENCOURAGE THOSE AROUND YOU TO TAKE ACTION

- ◊ Empower kids and grown-ups to learn about voting and taking action.
- ◊ Talk with kids about environmental that are issues important to them and then volunteer together.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING

- ◊ We are all different so having discussions about ways to take action can sometimes be challenging.
- ◊ Conversations about this topic may become politicized.
- ◊ There may be concerns from parents and educators.
- ◊ Kids may not have the resources to participate in a specific call to action.
- ◊ Children may be reluctant to participate, due to trauma or fear.
- ◊ Gender and racial tensions might increase.



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WHAT

(YOUR NAME)

IS DOING TO PROTECT

THE EARTH AND SUPPORT THE WATER PROTECTORS PLEDGE

- Turn the water off when you brush your teeth
- Take shorter showers
- Use a reusable water bottle
- Turn off the lights when you leave a room
- Avoid using plastic utensils and straws
- Recycle
- Plant a tree
- Turn off and unplug electronics and video games when you're not using them
- Ask your parents to carpool with your fellow classmates
- Volunteer with your class or family to do a beach cleanup
- Learn about your local government's environmental policies



- Write a letter to your representative

- Garden in your backyard or classroom

- Use both sides of your paper

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Did you know?

Most plastic takes
1,000 years to
decompose.

1.3 million gallons of
oil are spilled into
the ocean every year.

27,000 trees are cut
down each day so we
can have toilet paper.

There is an island of
garbage twice the size
of Texas inside the
Pacific Ocean.



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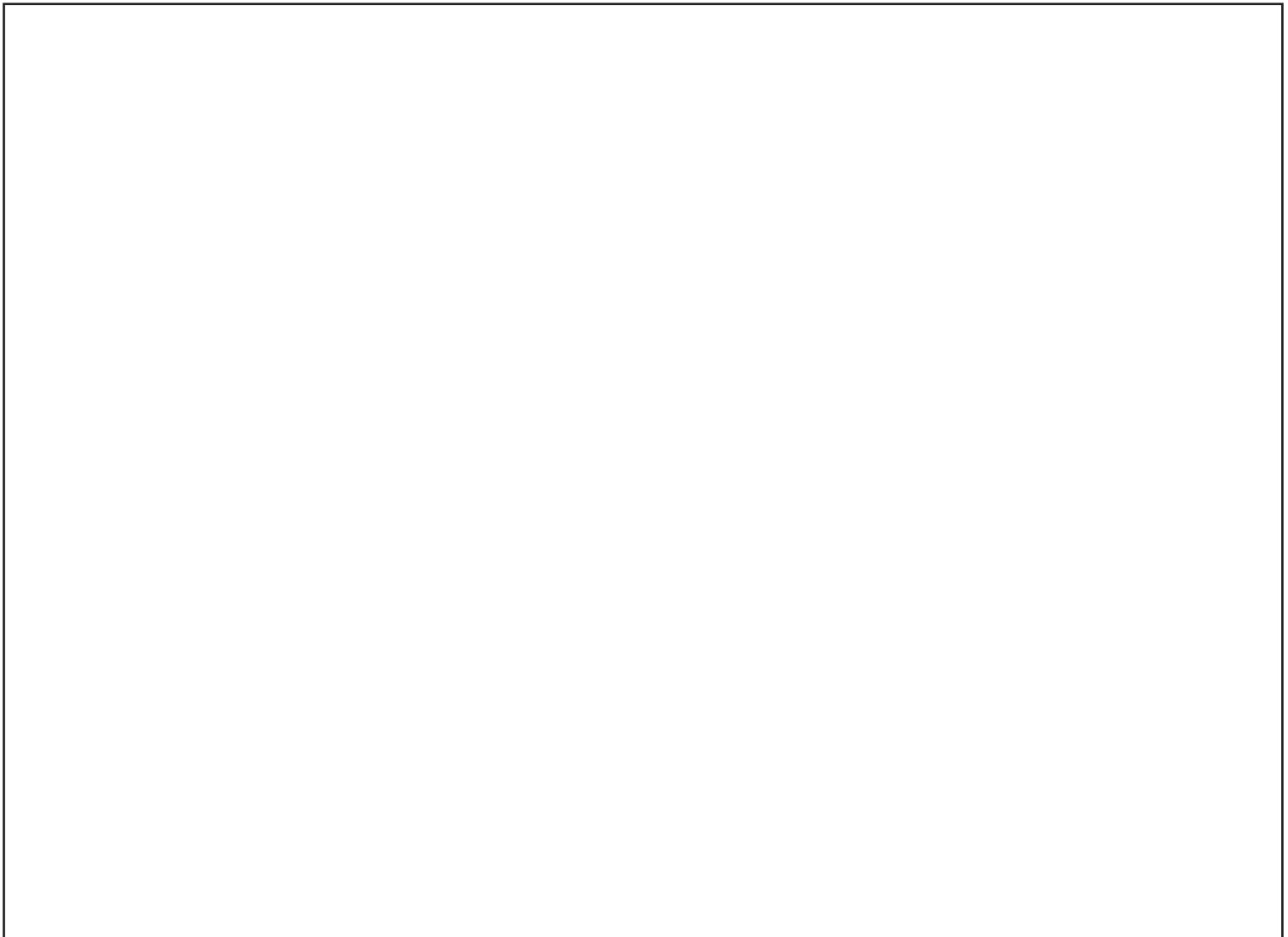


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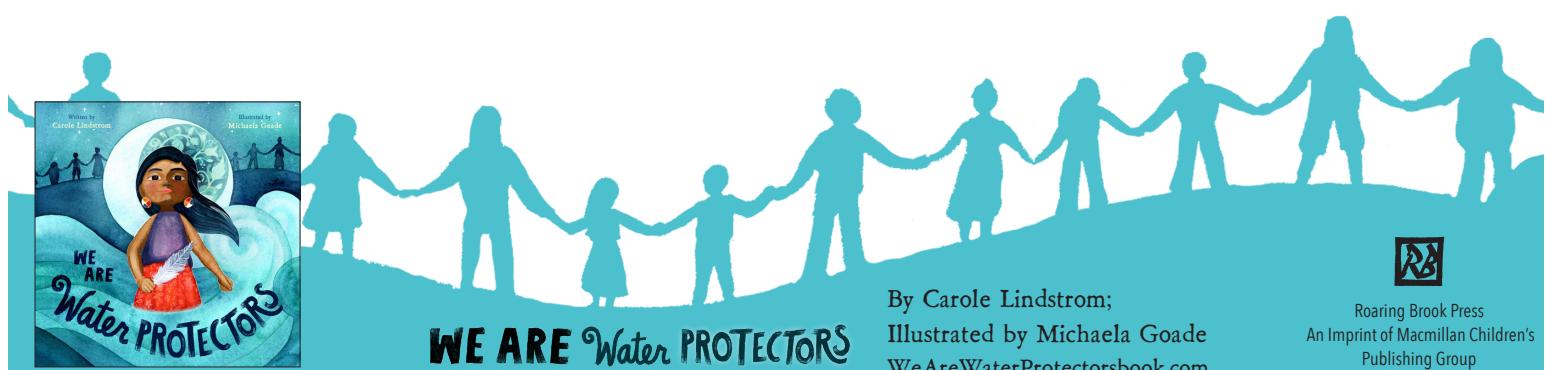
WE STAND AS ONE

WE ARE Water PROTECTORS is full of images showing humans as one with nature.

Draw a picture of you with something from nature or a natural resource that you would like to protect.



WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO PROTECT THIS?



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TAKE THE EARTH STEWARD AND WATER PROTECTOR PLEDGE

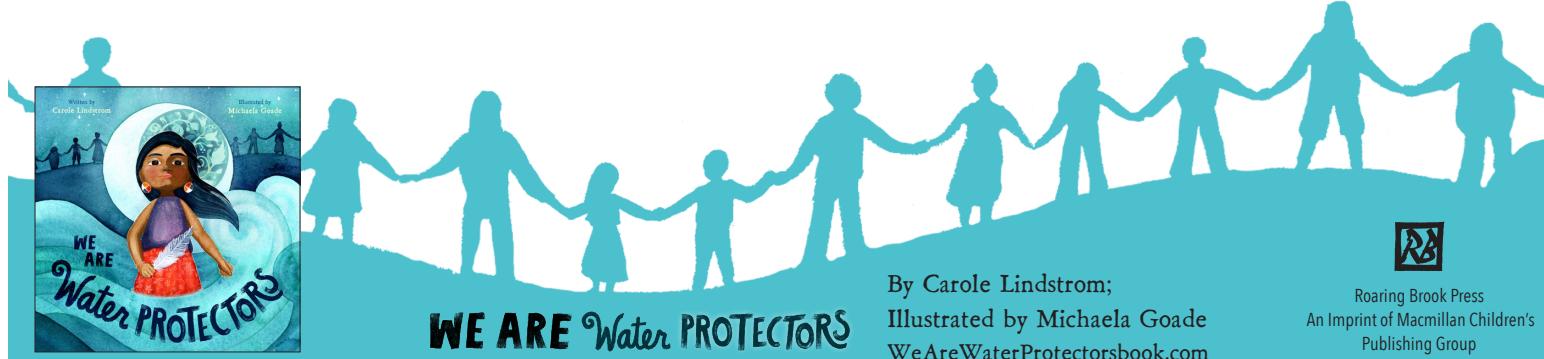
I will do my best to honor Mother Earth and all its living beings, including the water and land. I will always remember to treat the Earth as I would like to be treated.

I will treat . . .
the winged ones,
the crawling ones,
the four-legged,
the two-legged,
the plants,
trees,
rivers,
lakes,
the Earth
with kindness and respect.

I pledge to make this world a better place by being a steward of the Earth and a protector of the water.

My Name

Today's Date



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