NEW YORK CITY Children's Theater

Barbara Zinn Krieger,
Artistic Director & Founder

World Premiere

2025 Spring Main Stage Production

THE POCKET PARK Kids

Activity Book

ABOUT THE POCKET PARK KIDS

A new play that brings the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (a.k.a. The Global Goals) to life, showing kids and their families how anyone and everyone can help save the planet!

Written by
Anika Larsen & Orlando Bishop

Created by
Anika Larsen, Andrea Varga & Barbara Zinn Krieger

Commissioned by
New York City Children's Theater

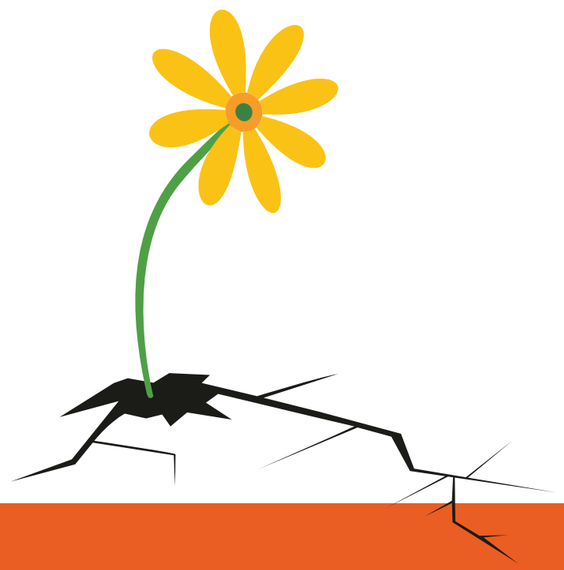
GLOBAL GOALS

In 2015, leaders from all 193 countries of the United Nations made the most ambitious plan that has ever been agreed. We believe that by teaching kids about the Global Goals, you can show them a better world is possible.

Source: https://worldslargestlesson.globalgoals.org/

SMALL PEOPLE CAN GET BIG THINGS DONE.

Between two city buildings lies a small, neglected park with a single tree, a broken fountain and a woeful amount of litter. Five kids from the neighborhood each have fiercely differing ideas about the future of the park. Just as the kids learn that a powerful developer is going to turn it into a parking garage, an unexpectedly wise parakeet makes a nest in the tree. When the bird starts talking, will the kids listen? Can they figure out how to come together to save their pocket park?



TAKE-HOME ACTIVITIES

This section includes activities that your student can do at home after bing inspired by the Pocket Park Kids!

ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:

- SEEDBALLS
- POCKET PARK DIORAMAS
- SCAVENGER HUNT OF PUBLIC PLACES

SEEDBALLS

These accessible recipes give students the tools to help their communities bloom with native flowers. Take them to a green space and throw!

The Egg Method

Poke a hole in the top and bottom of the egg

Using your mouth, blow the contents of the egg into a bowl use the eggs for cooking!

Carefully boil the egg shells in hot water for 15 minutes to sterilize them

Dry the egg shells completely on a paper towel once dry, cover the smaller hole and use the larger hole to fill the egg shell with seeds

Supplies needed:
- A needle
- Eggs
- A bowl
- Native seed mix
- Paper towel

The Paper Mache Method

Cut paper into 1 x 1 inch pieces

Put pieces in bowl and cover with water

Soak for 20-30 minutes

Wring out the paper gently, then pulse in the food processor

Move the paper back to the bowl and add seed mix and compost (if using)

Roll the mixture into balls by hand

If the mixture becomes too dry, sprinkle in more water

Let dry for 24-48 hours before throwing

Source: epicgardening.com

Supplies needed:
- Construction paper, recycled paper or old newspaper native seed mix
- Compost (optional)
- Food processor

POCKET PARK DIORAMAS

Students can make their own pocket parks literally! These models are small enough to bring on-the-go using an Altoid tin or another similar found object, use things found in nature, recycling, etc to build your own park model

Idea suggestions

Tree moss and grass

Little rocks

Build furniture and scenery out of twigs

Repurpose old doll furniture and other toys that have been outgrown

Supplies needed:
- Altoid tin (or something similar)
- Hot glue gun and sticks
- Found objects to build with

COMMUNITY SCAVENGER HUNT

With the help of trusted adults, students can go on adventure learning more about their neighborhood.

Teachers or caretakers make a list of things students can find on a scavenger hunt in their neighborhood can be done in teams as a race or simply as a group challenge

Suggestions to find:

Fire hydrants

Schools

Libraries

Playgrounds

Fire stations

Hospitals

Gardens

Bike lanes

Community fridges

Supplies needed:
- Paper for lists
- Pencils/pens

GLOSSARY

This glossary is made up of terms that are used in the Pocket Park Kids

Antidote - Something that prevents or counteracts injurious or unwanted effects.

Asphalt - A black, tar-like material that is used to pave roads and fill in potholes.

Bacteria - Microscopic living organisms that have only one cell. Millions (if not billions) of different types of bacteria can be found all over the world, including in your body.

Biodiversity - The variety of all living things and their interactions.

Block Association - A group of residents of a city block/ neighborhood who work together to maintain a safe and attractive neighborhood.

Citizen - Colloquial Definition- A person who lives in a city/town. Legal Definition - A person who legally belongs to a country and has the rights and protection of that country.

Community Garden - A public garden maintained and enjoyed by the people who live in the area.

Compromise - A way of reaching agreement in which each person or group gives up something that was wanted in order to end an argument or dispute.

Derelict- Abandoned, run-down.

Developer- A person whose job involves buying and selling buildings and land, and arranging for new buildings to be built.

Environmentalist- Someone who is concerned with and advocates for the protection of the environment.

Landlord- A person (or company) who owns a residential building and rents out houses/apartments to tenants for a profit.

Misinformation- Incorrect or misleading information.
Petition- A formal request or statement signed by a group of people asking a target to take action.

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Pollination- The act of transferring pollen grains from the male anther of a flower to the female stigma. Usually done by insects like bees.

Pollution- The introduction of substances or energy (such as light or heat) into the natural environment in amounts or concentrations that can be harmful for humans, animals, and plants.

Proposal- A plan or an idea, often a formal or written one, which is suggested for people to think about and decide upon.

Public Comment Period- The period of time the public has to respond to a request for public comment, such as a proposed rule

Rabies- A fatal viral infection that attacks the body's nervous system, often spread through infected animal bites.

Solar-Power- Power harnessed by converting energy from the sun into electricity.

Sustainability- The ability to continue something for a long time without harming the environment or people

Zoning- A set of local laws that regulate how property can be used in specific areas

HONEY'S HALL OF FAME

Throughout the play, Honey the Bird shares quotes from different prolific trail blazers. Those quotes and bios are shared here to introduce these heroes to your students!

HONEY'S HALL OF FAME

"Start where you are! Use what you have! Do what you can!"
Arthur Ashe
American professional tennis player, the only Black man to win Wimbledon

"The Earth laughs in flowers."
Ralph Waldo Emerson
American essayist, Abolitionist, poet who led the Transcendentalist movement

"They paved paradise, put up a parking lot."
Joni Mitchell
Canadian-American singer/songwriter

HONEY'S HALL OF FAME

"We can't just hope for a brighter day, we have to work for a brighter day."
Dolly Parton
American singer/songwriter

"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."
Robert Swan
British polar explorer

"Those who say it can't be done are usually interrupted by others doing it."
James Baldwin
African-American writer and civil rights activist

HONEY'S HALL OF FAME

"Fight for the things you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."
Ruth Bader Ginsburg
American lawyer, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court

"Power concedes nothing without a demand."
Frederick Douglass
American abolitionist

"Action is the antidote to despair."
Joan Baez
American singer/songwriter

HONEY'S HALL OF FAME

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world! Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."
Margaret Mead
American cultural anthropologist and writer

"Good done anywhere is good done everywhere."
Maya Angelou
American memoirist and poet

"Together, we can do the seemingly impossible! But it has to be us, and it has to be now."
Greta Thunberg
Swedish climate change activist

"Let future generations say we were the ones who stood up."
Malala Yousafzai
Pakistani education activist, producer, youngest Nobel Prize Laureate in history

New York City Children's Theater (NYCCT) inspires young people's imaginations and supports social and emotional growth through original theatrical experiences on stages, in schools, and in our community. NYCCT envisions a world in which theater is a vital and regular part of every child's experience. We reach children and their communities with a wide range of programming, including full-scale productions, small touring shows, interactive workshops and in-school residencies, and engage with them in traditional theater spaces, school auditoriums, classrooms and cultural venues in their neighborhoods. For more information about New York City Children's Theater and our programs, please visit **www.nycchildrenstheater.org**

The Pocket Park Kids curriculum is designed and created by New York City Children's Theatre's professional teaching artists and education staff:
Madeline Calandrillo
Frank Ruiz
Rachael Feldman
Emily Batsford
Becca Bernard
Lily Lipman
Caitlin Wees