

RESILIENT NORTHEASTERN NEW JERSEY



Ages 5 - 7

Introduction to Resilient NENJ

Let's talk about something super cool called the "Resilient Northeastern New Jersey Program." This program is like a big superhero team, but instead of capes, they wear hard hats and gardening gloves!



You know how sometimes it rains a lot, or it gets really hot outside, and things can get a little tricky? Well, the Resilient Northeastern New Jersey Program is here to help make sure our town in Northeastern New Jersey stays safe and strong.

They have some really smart and caring grown-ups who work together to protect our town from things like big storms, floods, and other problems that might happen because of something called "climate change."

Climate change is like when the weather gets a little mixed up and can sometimes make our town feel not so comfy. But guess what? These superhero grown-ups have a plan! They want to make sure we have clean air to breathe, clean water to drink, and that our homes stay nice and dry, even when it rains a lot.

Here are some things they do to help our town:

1. **Planting Trees:** They love planting trees because trees are like nature's air conditioners. They keep our town cool and fresh, just like a big leafy umbrella.
2. **Cleaning Up:** They organize clean-up days where everyone can help pick up litter and make our town look super neat and clean.
3. **Getting Ready for Storms:** They practice what to do if there's a big storm so that everyone in our town stays safe and cozy.



So, the Resilient Northeastern New Jersey Program is like our town's protectors. They make sure our town stays strong and safe, just like how our grown-ups take care of us. Isn't that awesome? You can be a little hero too by helping keep our town clean and by being kind to nature!

Max & Jojo's

Resilient Adventure



Resilient NENJ: Max & Jojo's Resilient Adventure

Once upon a time, in a cozy little town in Northeastern New Jersey, there lived two best friends, Max and Jojo. They loved playing outside in their beautiful town, but lately, something strange was happening. The weather was getting hotter, and big storms seemed to visit more often.

One sunny day, while Max and Jojo were playing in their backyard, they noticed that the flowers looked thirsty, and the air felt a bit too warm. They decided to find out what was going on.

Max and Jojo asked their parents about the changing weather, and their parents explained that it was because of something called "climate change." They learned that climate change made the Earth's weather act strangely, making things too hot or too rainy.

Max and Jojo wanted to help make their town better, so they decided to visit the local community center to learn more. There, they met friendly people who told them about the "Resilient Northeastern New Jersey" program. It was like a super-duper plan to make their town strong and safe from the changes in the weather.

The program had three important parts:

Planting Trees: Max and Jojo loved trees because they gave shade and made the air cleaner. They decided to join a tree-planting team to help plant more trees in their town. They learned that trees help cool the Earth and make it a better place to live.

Cleaning Up: Max and Jojo also joined a group of kids who were cleaning up their local park. They picked up litter and learned that keeping the Earth clean was essential to stopping climate change.

Saving Energy: At home, they started turning off lights and appliances when they weren't using them. They also reminded their parents to use less energy because it helped reduce pollution.

As Max and Jojo worked with their friends and neighbors, they saw their town become greener, cooler, and safer. The flowers in their backyard were no longer thirsty, and the air was fresher. They knew they were making a big difference!

One day, a big storm came to their town, but thanks to the Resilient Northeastern New Jersey program and the hard work of everyone in the town, they were ready. The storm wasn't as scary as before, and their town stayed safe.

Max and Jojo learned that by taking care of the Earth and working together, they could make their town resilient to climate change. They also discovered that even kids like them could be superheroes for the environment.

And so, Max and Jojo's adventure continued, as they knew that they were helping to make their town and the Earth a better place for everyone to enjoy.



Resilient NENJ: Short Story Exercises

Exercise 1 (Ages 5-7): "Climate Detectives"

Objective: Help young readers understand the basic concept of climate change from the first story.

Instructions:

1. Read the story "Max and Jojo's Resilient Adventure" with the children.
2. After reading, discuss with the children what they learned about climate change.
3. Ask them to draw two pictures side by side: one showing a happy Earth with clean air and green trees and another showing a sad Earth with dirty air and no trees.
4. Encourage them to label their drawings as "Happy Earth" and "Sad Earth."
5. Ask the children to color the "Happy Earth" picture with bright and happy colors and the "Sad Earth" picture with gloomy colors.
6. Have a discussion with the children about what they can do to make the Earth happy and healthy, like Max and Jojo did.

Exercise 2 (Ages 5-7): "Nature's Helpers"

Objective: Encourage young readers to think about how they can help the environment, as inspired by the story "Max and Jojo's Resilient Adventure."

Instructions:

1. Read the story "Max and Jojo's Resilient Adventure" with the children.
2. After reading, discuss with them the ways Max and Jojo helped the environment, like planting trees and cleaning up their local park.
3. Provide a list of simple actions that young children can do to help nature, such as "Pick up litter," "Water plants," "Turn off lights when leaving a room," "Recycle paper," "Use both sides of paper when drawing," etc.
4. Ask the children to choose at least two actions from the list.
5. Provide a coloring page with a picture of a park, trees, and animals. Ask them to color the picture and then add drawings or stickers to show themselves doing the actions they chose.
6. Encourage them to share their colored pictures with the group and explain what they did to help nature. This can be a fun and interactive way to reinforce the importance of taking care of the environment.