

“...important ideas can come from anyone’s imagination. So use yours all you can...”

—Dr. Science from *ecomagination for KIDS!*sm

Dear Science Educator:

What better way to end the school year than with fun, thought-provoking science activities that have direct impact on your students! The award-winning curriculum specialists at Young Minds Inspired (YMI) and GE are pleased to present you with **ecomagination for KIDS!**sm — a new, free magazine designed to help your students understand how imagination and innovation make our world a better place. They’ll learn how advancements in technology increase efficiency, reduce pollution and make their future cleaner and safer—and how they can play a part!

New developments in planes, trains, energy sources and even technologies that turn sea water into drinking water are inside the magazine—ready to spark your students’ *ecomagination*. There are also word games and brain teasers and even directions for building a simple desalination plant.

The **ecomagination for KIDS!** magazine is an important part of *ecomagination*, a commitment from GE to help meet environmental challenges that benefit the world at large. Your students can also go to the GE Web site to play *Geopolis* (www.ge.com/geopolis), a fun-filled and educationally enriching new game that allows them to find solutions to environmental problems and help make our world a better place.

See the back of this letter for valuable end-of-the-year and summer learning ideas to supplement the **ecomagination for KIDS!** magazine. We hope you find the idea starters a great way to inspire your students’ creativity!

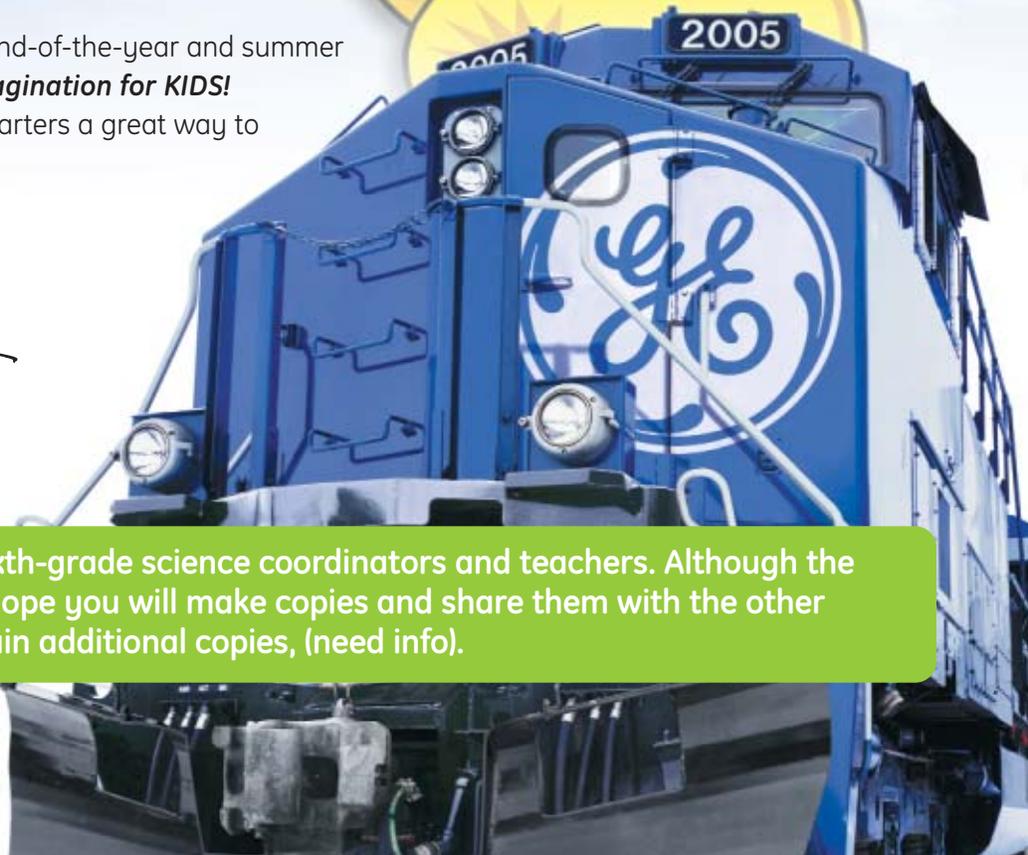
Sincerely,



Roberta Nusim
Publisher and
former teacher



Joel Ehrlich
President and
former teacher



This material is being sent to sixth-grade science coordinators and teachers. Although the materials are copyrighted, we hope you will make copies and share them with the other teachers in your school. To obtain additional copies, (need info).



Stimulate your students' ecomagination!

Use these ideas to stimulate creativity, generate class discussions, or initiate activities that focus on the environmental issues addressed in the GE *ecomagination for KIDS!*sm magazine. They're great as:

- fun, end-of-the year activities
- starting points to plan ecologically-oriented, summertime projects.

About Better Transportation...

- Cars typically run on gas or diesel fuel. Now, there are hybrids that combine an electric engine with a smaller, more efficient, gas engine. Ask students what they think the car of the future will be like. What will it look like? How will it work?
- A new hybrid locomotive engine will capture the energy from braking and store it in powerful batteries. How would students create energy to capture and use later?
- Newer engines will be quieter—important because noise pollution affects our environment. What example of noise pollution can students find in their community? How would they make it quieter?



- Solar power can keep us warm and provide plants with the energy they need. Today, some people use solar panels to heat water and even their homes. What else could solar power be used for in their homes?

About Cleaner Water...

- We take clean water for granted, because it's there when we turn on the faucet. Ask students: What is the most important thing people need to know about the water we use?
- We waste water, so what can we do to conserve it? Have students work in groups to make a list and plan how they would convince other kids to use their suggestions.
- All living creatures depend on clean water. Have students identify something they can do to help improve water quality in your community. Have students plan a community service project and implement their plan.

About Cleaner Energy...

- Hydroelectric power is a cleaner form of energy that harnesses the power of moving water. Ask students to invent a small household appliance that runs on the hydroelectric power they capture when they turn on the faucet.
- Wind turbines use the power of the wind and look like giant pinwheels. If they were going to design a better wind turbine, what would it look like? Why?

Encourage students' ecomagination during the summer

These idea starters are wonderful ways to keep your students engaged, motivated, and excited about learning now and during the summer break! Tell them that they can go to the GE Web site (www.ge.com/geopolis) to play *Geopolis*, a fun-filled and educationally enriching new game that allows them to join with kids everywhere to find solutions to environmental problems and help make our world a better place.

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