

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

Objective: To discuss recycling with students, stressing the significance of conservation of resources and why it is important to protect our environment.

Materials:

Word Search
Pictures of Recyclable Materials
Butcher Paper
Crayons

Introduction; 10-15 minutes

What is recycling and why is it important? Discussion with students on why recycling is so important. Who recycles? Who doesn't? Where are some recycling places around our area?

- Recycling is taking objects that are viewed as garbage and instead of trashing them, allowing them to be reused in another way to reduce waste.
- Recycling is important for many reasons. It is a way to keep waste out of landfills, which are often unpopular. It is also important to remember that recycling recovers valuable raw materials. If we make aluminum cans from recycled cans, then we don't have to disturb the environment by mining and smelting minerals. Finally, recycling reduces pollution and saves energy that would have been expended when making products from un-recycled raw materials.
- Recycling helps the environment by slowing down the rate at which we have to burn garbage or put it in landfills. With fewer landfills we can have more space for people to farm, live, and work. Recycling also helps by reducing our need to consume fresh natural resources to make new products. As a result we can save these resources for use by future generations. Most importantly, recycling saves energy and reduces pollution. This could help slow down global climate change, another environmental problem caused by burning fossil fuels like oil and gas

Word Search; 10-15 Minutes

Handout the word search (found below) and allow students to find the various words of materials that can be recycled. This will open their eyes to the many things they usually throw away that they should recycle to save our Earth. Discuss these items.

Things I Need To Live; 20-30 Minutes

Stress the importance of what is needed over what is wanted and how we should conserve. Learn about what is essential, and why things that are not essential create un-necessary waste. As the Earth's resources are limited, we must make decisions on what we truly need so we do not waste.

1. Have the students think of the things they use every day and make a list called "To live, I need....." They will separate the essentials from those things that are just nice to have. List the essentials.

2. One item at a time, focus on these items, and discuss.

- Where did it come from?
- What are the basic ingredients?
- Are the ingredients found in nature?
- Are they renewable?
- Are they non-renewable?
- Are they made by people?

3. Make a chart (on the butcher paper with crayons) of all the items discussed and see what needs to be conserved. Illustrate and display as a reminder:

Essential Things List

Found in nature?

Made by people?

Renewable?

Nonrenewable

Things That Can Be Recycled

D E A G N C O N C R E T E P T
R M O T O R O I L S F Q S I C
U W F Z K L U O T N X S R H O
V L F C J Z D G W A I E T D R
R T I N C A N S L C S I A A R
E S C O P P E R N M M B C E U
P H E G X O Z O W U E V L L G
A D P A P E R S Q N T A T L A
P L A S T I C S W I A J L Z T
S T P I Z U H T O M L M A W E
W B E C U B D E O U S I H R D
E G R A G S T E D L N D P Z S
N F D A W A O L E A V E S P Q
C E O X S U H A J C H C A R S
E C T A S S A L G F T Z I N C

Word Bank

IRON
TIN CANS
LEAVES
STEEL
ALUMINUM CANS
GLASS

BRASS
CARS
JARS
COPPER
TIRES
RAGS

ZINC
PLASTICS
PAPER
GOLD
ASPHALT
NEWSPAPER

LEAD
CONCRETE
CORRUGATED
METALS
MOTOR OIL
OFFICE PAPER
WOOD

Answer Key

D E A G N C O N C R E T E P T
R M O T O R O I L S F Q S I C
U W F Z K L U O T N X S R H O
V L F C J Z D G W A I E T D R
R T I N C A N S L C S I A A R
E S C O P P E R N M M B C E U
P H E G X O Z O W U E V L L G
A D P A P E R S Q N T A T L A
P L A S T I C S W I A J L Z T
S T P I Z U H T O M L M A W E
W B E C U B D E O U S I H R D
E G R A G S T E D L N D P Z S
N F D A W A O L E A V E S P Q
C E O X S U H A J C H C A R S
E C T A S S A L G F T Z I N C