

Family Fun

Reusing Recycled Material

Enduring Understanding: Pollution hurts wildlife and the environment, but effective conservation strategies carried out by people of all ages can make a difference and help restore nature.

Materials

- Images of polluted and unpolluted areas
- paper/white board
- Used or recyclable material (examples include toilet paper/ paper towel rolls, egg cartons, juice/milk cartons, plastic bottles, used paper, newspaper, magazines, plastic bags, cardboard boxes, paper bags, glass jars, soup cans, buttons, popsicle sticks)
- Paint
- Paintbrushes
- Markers, colored pencils, crayons
- Glue
- Tape
- Images of simple recycled crafts

Setup:

1. Gather used/recyclable materials; spread them out on the table
2. Prepare paint, paintbrushes, and other art supplies.

program outline:

Why is it important to take care of our Earth?

- Living things need clean water, air, and land in order to survive.
- Pollution is harming our planet. It is our job to put more effort into taking care of the earth so that we and future generations can lead healthy lives.
- Show students pictures of polluted areas and pristine, clean ones.
 - Have a class discussion about which area they would rather live in.

What are some things we can do to help take care of our earth?

- Play the song "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wtoeZ9Nkeqk>.

We can reduce waste.

- Reduce means to use less of something.
- We can reuse items (such as containers, water bottles).
 - Reuse means to use again.
- We can recycle materials correctly.
 - Recycle means to make new items from old ones.

Program outline continued:

Sample Chart

Reduce

to use less of something
Turn off lights, TV, and other electrical appliances.
Turn off water.
Use “scrap” paper or use both sides of a sheet of paper.

Reuse

to use an item again
Reuse plastic/paper bags, water bottles, containers, lunch boxes.
Donate old clothing, shoes, and toys.
Make crafts out of reusable materials/items (toilet paper rolls, egg cartons, etc.).
Buy used things (books, DVDs, clothes, toys, etc.).

Recycle

to make new items from old ones
Paper, newspapers, magazines
Plastic bottles
Glass
Aluminum cans

Talk about three scenarios. Ask if this scenario shows reducing, reusing, or recycling.

Scenario 1

Jose threw away cardboard boxes in the landfill trash can. His friend, Leo, helped him to put the boxes into the correct bin. (Recycle)

Scenario 2

Ling lost his lunchbox and brought his lunch to school in a paper bag today. During free time he used the paper bag to make a silly puppet for his little sister, Lilly. (Reuse)

Scenario 3

Olivia’s father was reading in the kitchen. He received a phone call and went upstairs to talk on the phone. He left the kitchen lights on, so Olivia made a smart choice to turn off the lights for him. (Reduce)

How can we reuse materials that are ready to be recycled?

- Recycled materials can be reused to make a variety of helpful or fun items.
- Let students browse through recycled materials and brainstorm ideas.
 - Students look at materials and determine what materials they can reuse to make a simple craft, toy, or tool.
- Show students some images of different recycled crafts (see chart next).
 - Students sketch two to three ideas on a sheet of paper and choose one final craft to make.

Program outline continued:

| Craft | Materials Needed | Basic Instructions |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Pencil Holder | Can, scrap paper, magazines, scissors, glue/tape | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Cut a piece of white scrap paper to fit the tin can. Glue or tape paper around the can.2. Cut words out of a magazine that describe the special person who will receive the pencil holder. (The student can write words on it, too.)3. Glue/tape the words to the can. |
| Shaker/Maraca Instrument | Empty water bottle with lid, masking tape, paint or markers, pasta shells, rice, or dried beans | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Wrap the water bottle from top to bottom with masking tape.2. Decorate the maraca by drawing or painting a unique design on the tape.3. Fill the bottle with pasta shells, rice, or beans.4. Put the lid on the bottle and shake it! |
| Spaceship | Paper towel roll, white cardstock or construction paper, black construction paper, red/orange paper (tissue or construction), scissors, glue, markers | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Paint paper towel roll white.2. Cut a white triangle from recycled construction paper.3. Crumple up a small piece of black construction paper and glue it in the top of the roll. Use markers or paint to decorate spaceship.4. Glue red paper strips to the bottom of the roll to make the engine "fire."5. Glue the roll to the middle of the triangle so it looks like two wings. |

Conclusion

- To reinforce this lesson, keep asking your student to help you decide what to reduce, reuse, and recycle around the house.

teacher background:

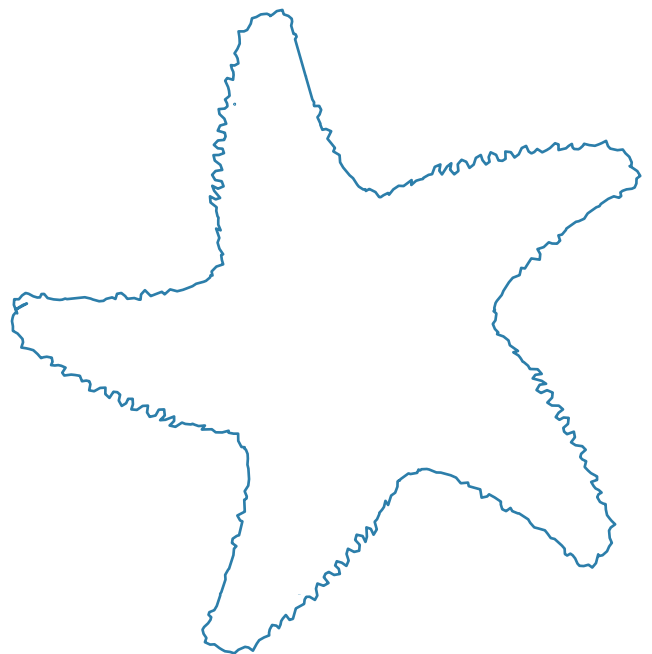
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Reducing, reusing, and recycling can help individuals, communities, and the environment by saving money, energy, and natural resources.

Best practices for reducing, reusing, and recycling waste include

1. Sell, donate, or give away old items.
2. Find creative ways to reuse old materials.
3. Purchase secondhand materials or recycled products.
4. Compost biodegradable material.
5. Recycle properly at home and in your community. Check labels to determine if and how an item can be recycled.
6. Repair items instead of purchasing new ones.
7. Buy items in large quantities or in bulk to avoid excess packaging.
8. Substitute reusable items for consumable ones.
9. Educate others about the importance of conservation and what they can do to get involved.

Reducing, reusing, and recycling materials demonstrate concern for the environment and show effort in helping to make the world a cleaner and healthier place to live. By engaging in these practices, people can use raw materials more efficiently, help decrease the use of toxic materials, lessen the overproduction of materials, improve communities around the world, and set a positive example for future generations.



glossary:

Conserve: To prevent wasteful or harmful overuse of a resource

Recycle: To convert into reusable material

Reduce: To make smaller or less in amount

Reuse: To use again or more than once