

LESSON: Nature Recycles, Shouldn't We All?

GRADE: 1

OBJECTIVES:

Employability Skills-

- **21.K-2.ES.4 Develop initiative and demonstrate self-direction in activities.**
 - Engage in effective problem solving process.

MATERIALS & RESOURCES:

- Access to website FergusonFoundation.org:
<http://fergusonfoundation.org/hbf-kids-zone/take-out-the-trash/>

PRESENTATION:

Imagine 80 garbage cans crammed with stinking trash! That's about how much trash each person throws away each year. This creates problems--

- Where to put all the garbage, we are running out of room in the landfills
- Some trash ends up in harmful places like the ocean.

Nature recycles the air, water and soil on Earth. We would run out of these elements if it weren't being recycled. Every time you go to a drinking fountain, or buy a bottle of water, you're drinking the same water that the dinosaurs drank. The earth, plants and weather all play parts in transporting and cleaning water and air so that we have enough for all our needs.

DIRECTIONS:

1. There are several computer games for students to do individually—
 - The Trash Sorting activity lets kids separate lunch items into these categories
 - The Trash Free Lunch Game lets kids see how their lunch trash stacks up
 - In Lunch Ranking, kids rank lunches from 1-4 in relation to trash vs. recycling
 - The Recycle Quiz helps kids learn about what can be recycled and what is made of recycled material
2. Once students have played the games, taken the quizzes and explored the information, use these processing questions with the whole class—
 - What did you learn about trash and recycling?
 - Imagine what the world would be like if nature didn't recycle.
 - What would it look like if nothing decomposed?
 - How would it smell?
 - If you think that's gross, think about all of the things you throw away every day.
 - How do you think your trash looks piled up in the landfill, and would it smell?
 - What can we do about the immense amount of trash we're creating in the world?
3. Ask the kids to come up with ways to reuse and recycle everyday items.
Examples:
 - **Envelopes** By sticking labels over the address you can reuse envelopes. Alternatively, old envelopes can be used as scrap paper to make notes on.
 - **Jars and pots.** By cleaning glass jars and small pots, you can use them as small containers to store odds and ends.
 - **Build a Compost Bin** You can reuse many waste items, such as eggshells and old tea bags, using a compost bin. This waste then degrades and turns into compost that can be used to help your garden grow.

TIME:**60 min.**

PROCESSING THROUGH THE SIX PILLARS:

WHAT?

- What would our classroom look like if we all had lunch trash pile up every day?
- What are the problems that result from creating too much garbage?

SO WHAT?

- Who is responsible for all this garbage?
- Can you imagine a world or community with very little garbage?
- Imagine what would happen if you had to keep and be responsible for all the garbage you created?

NOW WHAT?

- What would our classroom look like if we all did our part in packing a trash free lunch?
- How can we help other students to bring a trash-less lunch?
- Can you think of ways to reduce your trash? Some people challenge themselves to create no garbage for a year!
- Taking small actions can create big changes.