



Lesson Plan: Reduce, Reuse, And Recycle!

Adapted from Mecklenburg County, North Carolina "Renuzit" Lesson Plan – www.charmeck.org

Goal: Students will determine what garbage items can be reduced, reused or recycled.

Assessment: Students will classify garbage into 3 piles: reduce, reuse and recycle. The students will then give explanations as to why they chose to put the garbage in the piles they did.

Age Group: Grades K-2

Time: 30-45 minutes

Materials:

- Clean garbage collected from student's homes
- 3 boxes labeled "reduce", "reuse" and "recycle"

Vocabulary

Reduce – make smaller or less in amount.

Reuse – the action of using something again.

Recycle – processing used materials into new products to prevent waste of potentially useful materials.

Garbage – discarded or useless material.

Municipal Solid Waste – is a waste type consisting of everyday items that are discarded by the public, commonly known as garbage or trash.

Background Information for Teachers

Recycling is an important way to reduce the impact of our waste on our community, locally and globally. It is a very easy thing to do, and it matters more than you think. Minnesotans make a big impact by recycling more than 2 million tons per year.

Preparation

- Have students bring in some "clean" solid waste.

Activity

- Start the lesson with the following questions:

What kinds of things do you throw away that could be reused or recycled?

Could you stop using some things altogether?

- Collect the solid waste from the students into a corner of the room.
- Seat the students around the pile of solid waste.
- Have each student choose some garbage to classify as reduce, reuse or recycle.
- After all pieces have been classified and put in the appropriate box, set the stage for the next activity by asking: “How can we reduce, reuse and recycle this garbage?”

Extensions

- Discuss the use of natural resources in the production of the items collected in the above procedure. What impact has this production had on the environment?
- Ask students to write about their favorite animal. Younger students can draw a picture of what their favorite animal looks like. Has the production of the solid waste items been harmful to these animals? How?

Minnesota Teaching Standards

Kindergarten

Science: 0.1.1.2.1

Social Studies: 0.1.1.1.1

1st Grade

Science: 1.1.1.1.1, 1.1.3.1.1

Social Studies: 1.1.1.1.1

2nd Grade

Science: 2.1.1.2.1, 2.1.2.2.2

Social Studies: 2.3.4.9.1