



Let's Talk Trash

Lesson Plan

Centered on the Three R's of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

Grades: K–4. Please make changes to lessons and appendices as desired to fit the needs of your classroom.

Lesson Duration: 1-2 Days

Standards: See complete list at end of lesson.

Objectives:

- Students will explain what it means to recycle
- Students will recognize items that can be recycled
- Students will sort and categorize by properties related to recycling

Materials:

- Computer and projector
 - Search internet for web resources such as web movies, literature, posters and other media to use in lesson pertaining to trash, garbage, recycling, and decomposition
 - Bag of trash
 - Latex or rubber gloves
 - Paper for students to take notes
 - Elmer's School Glue
 - Clean, previously worn socks
 - Arts and craft items (buttons, yarn)
 - Googly eyes
 - Appendix A - suggested vocabulary list
- www.elmersgluecrew.com for additional resources

Directions:

Preview Appendix A. Prepare your bag of trash. Arrange for the custodial staff to leave your class trash in classroom at end of previous day. Place additional items in trash bag such as: empty Elmer's Glue sticks and empty Elmer's glue bottles, a cereal box, banana peel, and paper, etc. - to ensure a wide variety of trash items and interesting discoveries for your students.

Lesson:

Introduce Vocabulary (See Appendix A).

Read literature selection, show web movie or other media about the topic of "trash".



Lesson (continued):

After viewing movie:

Think, Pair, Share Notes

Discuss with students what they have learned from your media selection, what they found out about recycling and to answer this question:

Do you think it is important to help the earth by recycling in your community?

Let's Talk Trash!

Together as a whole group, complete a *Trash Audit*.

1. Pull out bag of trash

Explain to the students that together you'll be doing a trash audit on your classroom trash bag. Audit is a fancy way of saying "check, examine or inspect" students might want to add this word to any sort of vocabulary list you are keeping. Doing this audit to examine what is in your trash. You can discuss ways to recycle and reuse items found in the trash in our own classroom through doing this trash audit. Be thinking about how you might sort these items into different categories.

2. Examine the trash

Have students wear gloves and ask them to select items from the trash one by one. Make a list of what is found in the bag on the board, and/or have students take notes on their own.

3. Categorize the trash

Have students categorize items in ways that make sense to them. You might suggest starting with broad categories such as; garbage, recycled materials, reusable materials, degradable materials, things that can be reduced in size before discarding etc., and then work to more specific attributes, like paper, plastic, metal.

Sort materials according to categories the children come up with.

This is a good opportunity to share with the students that Elmer's glue sticks and glue bottles are recyclable (see www.elmersgluecrew.com)

4. Wrap It Up

How might we be able to make a difference related to trash in our own classroom community? Elicit responses such as: reuse scraps of construction paper, use both sides of paper before discarding, make collection bins for materials that can be taken to a recycling facility.



Let's have some more fun!

Create a Recycled Puppet

Students use clean old socks, Elmer's school glue and arts and craft supplies, buttons, yarn and other embellishments to make a puppet out of recycled materials. Students can act out the media selection with their puppets or make up their own mini stories on recycling. Of course, don't forget to have them make up a creative name for their puppet. Display puppets, share created stories with other classes etc, and have some fun!

This lesson adheres to the following National Education Standards:

Science

NS.K-4.1 Science as inquiry Abilities necessary to do scientific inquiry, Understanding about scientific inquiry

NS.K-4.2 Properties of objects and materials

NS.K-4.3 Life Sciences Characteristics of organisms, organisms and environments

NS.K-4.5 Science and Technology: Abilities to distinguish between natural objects and objects made by humans

English

NL.Eng-K-12.3 Evaluation Strategies Students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate texts.

NL.Eng-K-12.4 Communication Skills Students adjust their use of spoken, written, and visual language (e.g., conventions, style, vocabulary) to communicate effectively to variety of audiences.

NL.Eng-K-12.7 Evaluating Data Students conduct research on issues and interests by generating ideas and questions, and by posing problems.



Let's Talk Trash Vocabulary List

Use words that fit your grade level.

- Recycling
- Trash
- Garbage
- Landfill
- Haul
- Contaminate
- Pollution
- Reuse
- Refuse

Add to this list from words found in your media selection.