



Recycle City

Lesson Plan

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

Grades: K–5. Please make changes to lessons and appendices as desired to fit the needs of your classroom.

Lesson Duration: 3-10 Days

Standards: See complete list at end of lesson.

Objectives:

- Students will research and study literature to make a list of at least ten places or things commonly found in a city (ie: bus, ball field, bank, apartment, police station, market, etc.)
- Students will use this information to help them design a city made of as many recycled materials as possible
- Students will include required elements of a city
- Students will communicate, through writing the uniqueness of their city
- Students will give an oral presentation about their city, it's uniqueness and recycled materials used
- Students will recognize the significance of reusing, recycling and its impact on our environment

Materials:

- Books and other resources about cities
- A quick Internet search on building city out of recycled materials will give you many more resources and ideas as well
- Elmer's Foam Board
- Elmer's Glue-All®
- Paper and other embellishments to add to city
- Household Items – clean, used items such as containers, 2 liter bottles, Styrofoam, foil pans, milk carton, etc.
- Sample travel brochures
- Appendix A, Recycle City planning guide
- Appendix B, rubric on project evaluation

Directions:

Collect books from the library on cities. Copy Appendix A and configure students into working groups.



Lesson:

1. Research

Use books and other literature or media on the subject of cities. Let students browse literature and media.

Have students browse through books taking note of structures, businesses, transportation systems, entertainment, etc. On the board, brainstorm places and things found in a city.

2. Planning

In groups, have students fill out the Recycle City planning sheet- Appendix A. Suggest they think about schools, stores, restaurants, city buildings, etc. If necessary adapt to fit your grade level.

3. Approval

Students work together to plan a city. Act as a "city official" and review and approve their plan before they build the city. Explain that this is how most cities work, in that builders much get approval from city officials.

4. Construction

Students construct a city out of recycled items. Elmer's foam board makes a great base for this project. Students paint, and embellish with arts and crafts items.

Provide students with a rubric on how their work will be evaluated, which they are able to preview before they begin their project. See Appendix B.

5. Wrap It Up

Students give oral presentations about the uniqueness of their city as well as convey the types of recycled materials used. Invite other classes to hear the presentations. If you'd like, have other classes vote for the group that they feel used the most recycled materials in their project.

Discuss the significance of reusing materials before discarding them. How can this and recycling impact our environment?

Let's have some more fun!

Place individuals in groups and ask them to create a drawing, poster or brochure to tell about their city. Their audience is someone who has never been to their city. Tell the possible visitor all about your city, what makes it unique, what they can do while there, etc. Include pictures and/or hand-made illustrations.



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
- NS.K-4.6 Personal and Social Perspectives: Characteristics and changes in populations, types of resources, changes in environments
- NS.K-4.7 History of Nature and Science: Science as a human endeavor

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-12.5 Communication Strategies Students employ a wide range of strategies as they write and use different writing process elements appropriately to communicate
- NL.Eng-K-12.6 Students apply knowledge of language structure, language conventions (e.g., spelling and punctuation), media techniques, figurative language, and genre to create, critique, and discuss print and non-print texts.
- NL.Eng-K-12.7 Evaluating Data Students conduct research on issues and interests by generating ideas and questions, and by posing problems.

Social Studies

- N.SS-K-2.1.C People in Society
- N.SS-3-5.3.D Geography
- N.SS-K-2.4.B Economics

Visual Arts

- NA-VA.K-4.1 Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes
- NA-VA.K-4.2 Using knowledge of structures and functions
- NA-VA.K-4.5 Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others
- NA-VA.K-4.6 Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines



Recycle City Planning Sheet

Group Name: _____

Group Members: _____

Businesses in your City
(make at least 4)

Business	Made out of...
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

Transportation systems in your City
(make at least 2)

Transportation	Made out of...
1.	
2.	

Housing in your City
(make at least 1)

Housing	Made out of...
1.	

Entertainment in your City
(make at least 2)

Entertainment	Made out of...
1.	
2.	



Recycle City Evaluation Rubric

See the following rubric to establish the criteria for how your city will be graded.

Criteria	Points Possible	Earned
Variety of business and services	20	
Amount of reused materials	40	
Creativity, uniqueness	10	
Neatness of work	10	
Travel Brochure	20	
		Total



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Appendix A



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