

ecoMentors Lesson Plan Template: Helping kids explore the planet! www.ecomentors.ca		
Title: The 3 R's	Grade Level(s): 1-2	Time/Date:
School:	Teacher:	
Directions to school, class:		
Contact Info:		
Ontario Curriculum Connection: Matter & Materials		
Vocabulary: Words & Concepts your class may be learning, look these up yourself too!		
Reduce – to use less or make less, decrease		
Reuse – to use again		
Recycle – to change and use again in a different form		
Materials and Equipment: List these before and while you plan and revise so you're prepared.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bring in a number of different waste-items, such as bottle, newspaper, plastic bag, etc. At least enough for all the students to use one! Include a lot (about half) of organic waste! - Bring a green bin (or a green box) and a trash can (or a regular box) - Paper and colors 		
What is your class accomplishing?: Learning & Activity Goals, Objectives		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify ways to reduce, recycle and reuse different objects. • Understand the different materials that are disposed of in a typical garbage dump. 		

PROCEDURE

The Spark: Introductions, Demonstrations, Show and Tell, Topic Intro (Break the ice!) ~5-10min

Introduce yourself.

Have students introduce themselves along with an answer to the questions:

What kind of garbage did you or your parents throw away this morning?

Or: *What was the last thing you threw away?*

Brainstorming, Getting ideas, Connecting ideas (assess their knowledge!) ~10-20min

Discussion

What is garbage? Can you think of other words for garbage? (Waste, trash, etc.)

*What happens with garbage after we throw it away? **It goes to a landfill, it is recycled or composted.***

Can you think of garbage that is recycled? What does recycle mean?

Can you think of garbage that is composted? What does composting mean?

*Can you think of garbage that can not be composted or recycled? Where does this garbage end up? **The landfill.***

*Why is it important to compost and recycle? **The landfills are getting full, we create more and more garbage; but where does it all go? We use trees and other natural items to make the things we use (toys, paper, electricity, etc.) and this way we could use up all our nature!***

*What other ways do you know to create less garbage and spare our nature? **Use less things (reduce), or re-use things!***

So now we have learned 3 words that start with an R: Reduce, Re-use and Recycle. Can someone explain what these words mean exactly?

How can you reduce/reuse/recycle at home? At school?

Activity, Game, Exercise, Debate, Puzzles, Problem Solving, Role Play(Pt. II or Cont...) ~10-30mins

Ask students to raise their hands if they know if the sentence is about reducing, reusing or recycling.

1. People melt plastic bottles and make new plastic bottles for juice. (Recycle)
2. You give your old books to a friend to read. (Reuse)
3. Your family turns off the water when they brush their teeth. (Reduce)
4. Your class collects used paper and sends it to a place where they make it into new paper. (Recycle)
5. Your class turns off the light when there is no one in the class. (Reduce)
6. You collect your plastic shopping bags and use them as garbage bags. (Reuse)
7. At the grocery store you bring your own bag so you don't have to use a new one. (Reduce)
8. Your mom uses the same lunch box for your sandwich. (Reduce, Reuse)
9. You give your old clothes to the Salvation Army, they give it to others who need it. (Reuse)
10. You turn off the TV at home when you are not watching it. (Reduce)

Activity, Game, Exercise, Debate, Puzzles, Problem Solving, Role Play(Pt. II or Cont...) ~10-30mins

Re-use it!

Give each student (or pair of students) an item of trash (a bottle, apple peel, old newspaper, plastic bag, etcetera). Let the students make a drawing in which they re-use the item in a fun, creative way. i.e. use the plastic bag as a shopping bag, make a boat out of the newspaper, feed the apple peel to your rabbit, etc.

Let the students present their drawings to the class.

Activity, Game, Exercise, Debate, Puzzles, Problem Solving, Role Play(Pt. II or Cont...) ~10-30mins

To compost or to not compost?

Put the 'green bin' and the 'trash can' empty in the middle of the class.

Hand out the waste items you used for the previous activity to the students. Make sure each student gets an item.

Let each student walk to the middle of the class and put the item in the right box. Continue until the items are in the right boxes.

If this is too slow and students start to lose attention, you can decide to make this into a competition; divide the class in two. First the first half should put their items (half of the total items) in the right boxes. Count the number of correct choices.

Then the second group should divide their waste items.

The winner is the group with the most items in the correct bin.

Review, Conclusion and steps towards continued action ~5-10mins

What did you learn today? Why is it important to reduce, reuse and recycle and compost?

What are some new things that you'll do to exercise the 3 R's?

References

1. City of Toronto – www.toronto.ca/recycle
Recycling Fun Facts - <http://members.aol.com/Ramola15/funfacts.html>

Great work ecoMentor! After use of Lesson Plan revise, add ideas and repeat!