Early to Mid Primary

Recycle Right

... to save resources

Lesson Objectives

After completing this lesson, students will be able to:

1 Describe some of the benefits of recycling to the environment and society;

2 Detail the benefits of producing items from recycled material versus producing items from raw materials;

3 Explain to others the importance of recycling a material of their choice.

Background

Recycling has many environmental benefits including:

- Recycling items, rather than sending them to landfill saves landfill space for those items we can't yet recycle;
- Recycling diverts toxic substances from landfill thereby preventing leakage;
- Recycling organic material like garden cuttings and green waste prevent them breaking down to produce methane, a powerful green house gas.;
- Recycling conserves natural, and often non-renewable resources such as trees, water, oil, metals and minerals. It can also preserve natural ecosystems and habitats;
- Making most products from recycled material uses less energy than making them from raw materials. Recycling therefore helps combat climate change.

These benefits of recycling mean that individuals, communities, schools and businesses can become more sustainable and take meaningful actions against climate change simply by recycling more.

Introduction

In this lesson students will design a poster aimed at encouraging other students to recycle. Students will develop research and presentation skills by researching their own recycling topic and presenting it to others.

Duration

This activity may require more than one lesson to complete. Steps one and two will require approximately one hour to complete. Steps three and four could be completed in class time or allocated as homework. Step five is best allocated to a separate teaching period.

Materials

- Paints
- Textas
- Magazines
- Glue
- Scissors
- A piece of poster board for each student
- Internet access

Activity

1. Class brainstorm:

a. Provide students the below definition of recycling. Discuss its place within the '3 R's' hierarchy (reduce, then reuse, then recycle).

"Recycling is taking a product that has finished being used, and making something new from it".

b. What kinds of products and materials can be recycled?

Many products can be recycled. Some items are collected by local council (e.g. paper, glass, plastic, steel, aluminium). Other items can be taken to local collection points (e.g. mobiles, batteries, printer cartridges, corks, motor oil, plastic bags etc.)

To find out what can be recycled in your local area, visit RecylingNearYou.com.au

c. What are the environmental benefits of recycling?

See Introduction above.

2. Class research:

a. Each student chooses a recyclable product from the brainstormed list to research. Make sure there is a range throughout the class.

b. Students then undertake individual research to asses the environmental benefits of recycling their product and to prepare for their poster.

c. A great site to start looking for some facts and information is www.lgsa-plus.net.au/www/html/993-quick-facts.asp. Other resources can be found at RecyclingWeek.PlanetArk.org/recycling-info/downloads.cfm.

3. Poster design:

a. Students make a design of their poster.

b. Be clear that the aim of the poster is to encourage other students to recycle the product, by showing the environmental benefits.

c. Encourage students to be creative and to consider how to make the poster eye-catching as well as informative and effective at conveying their message. This may include creating a slogan.

4. Poster production:

a. Distribute craft resources (as listed above)

b. Students create their poster based on their designs.

5. Poster presentation:

a. Students present their poster to other class members, another class or the school. Give the students a specific time (eg 2 or 5 minutes) to explain their poster to the other students and promote the benefits of recycling their product.

b. If presenting within the class, the class can listen in turn to each student. An alternative may be to hold a mini expo and encourage students to engage one-on-one with each other.

c. Once presented, display the finished posters around the school or in the classroom as a reminder to students.

Alternative Strategy

This lesson can also be done as a group activity with 2 - 5 students working on each poster.

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