

OIMB GK12 CURRICULUM

Kindergarten

30 minutes

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!

Oregon Science Content Standards:

K.4 Engineering Design: Engineering design is used to design and build things.

K.4D.2 Show how components of designed structures can be disassembled and reassembled.

Goal: To introduce students to recycling and responsible disposal of garbage

Key Concepts:

- Reusable products are less wasteful than single-use items.
- We can recycle paper, plastic, glass, and metal into other useful things.
- Litter can harm wildlife.
- We can all make a positive difference by not littering and by reducing our waste.

Materials:

- Gallon jug half filled with water
- A few paper cups
- Reusable water bottle
- Paper towels
- Rag
- Fabric tote bag
- Plastic Bags
- 2 large drawings of the recycle symbol
- Assorted paper and plastic recyclables
- Aluminum Cans (with edges taped for safety)
- Separate bins for paper, plastic, and aluminum recyclables
- Picture labels for bins

Lesson Plan:

1. Have the students give you some examples of garbage. Inform them that each of us makes 4 lbs. or garbage every day! Show the students a half-filled gallon bottle of water to demonstrate how much that garbage weighs.
2. Inquire if they know where the garbage all goes, and inform them a lot ends up in big piles—bigger than the school! How can we make less garbage?
3. Some garbage (especially litter) can float or drift into ponds where it can harm animals that might get tangled in the litter or try to eat it.
4. Explain that you will teach them 3 ways to make less garbage: reduce, reuse, and recycle. Repeat this phrase as a class.

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Reduce

5. Start with the word “reduce.” It means “to make less.” Have your pairs of objects ready for a demonstration. Hold up a stack of paper cups, and a reusable water bottle. Tell your students that you get thirsty often throughout the day and ask them if you would reduce (make less) garbage by drinking from paper cups or your water bottle. Have them raise their hands and explain their answers. Emphasize how you can use your water bottle over and over again. Repeat this process with a rag & roll of paper towels, and a fabric tote bag vs. plastic grocery bags.

Reuse

6. Introduce the word “reuse”, “to use again”. If we reuse things over and over, we don’t need as much of something, so there will be less waste to dispose of. Also, explain that when we are done using something one way, we can often think of new ways to use things. Give students examples, such as using a small paper bag from a store to bring their lunch to school, or using a glass jar as a vase for flowers.
7. Name objects and challenge students to tell you how they could use the objects in another way.

Recycle

8. We can reduce our garbage by recycling it, and turning it into something else we can use. There is a special symbol that helps you know whether you can recycle something. Show them a large drawing of the recycle symbol. Inform the class that you’ve hidden a second drawing of the symbol somewhere in the room. The goal of the game is for the students to find the symbol, BUT they have to be sneaky! If they find the symbol, they shouldn’t point or shout, but walk quietly back to the carpet and sit until everyone has found the symbol on their own. To reinforce this, ask them what they’re to do when they find the symbol, and have them repeat it back to you.
9. After the game, place labeled recycling bins by the carpet area and pour out different recyclables onto the carpet (paper, plastic, and aluminum cans with edges taped). Give each student a piece of recycling and have them help put it in the right bin.
10. Talk about how recycled objects are used. Paper can be made into napkins or envelopes or other paper. Glass bottles can be made into bottles again. But some materials are melted down and used in new ways. Some plastics are turned into fleece for coats! Some becomes playground equipment!

Wrap up

11. Have the students remind you the three ways they can reduce trash, and repeat the phrase “reduce, reuse, and recycle” together again. Emphasize how they can make a positive difference.

Assessment: Check for understanding from the discussion and if the students properly sort the recyclables.

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Clip Art



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