

Chapter Three

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle



AND TO THINK OF THE
RESOURCES I'VE BEEN
WASTING BY BUYING THE
NON-RECYCLED STUFF!



Day One:

Today, you and your child will:

1. Read the text
2. Review the text with your child
3. Complete the student worksheets
4. Collect the materials you will need for days two and three

National Science Education Standards covered this week:

The supply of many resources is limited. If used, resources can be extended through recycling and decreased use.

There are three ways to use our resources carefully:

Reduce - using less resources

Reuse - using your resources again *without* changing them

Recycle - using your resources again *after* changing them

Recycling reduces the amount of trash and lets us reuse many resources. Most trash ends up in large fields, called landfills, where it is dumped and buried.

Definitions

Landfill	landfills are large fields where trash is dumped and buried
Reduce	using less resources
Reuse	using your resources again without changing them
Recycle	using your resources again after changing them

Sample questions to ask your child after completing the weekly reading.

What could you do to help reduce, reuse or recycle resources in your home?

Answers will vary. Any number of examples can be mentioned from this question.

Which do you think is more important: reducing, reusing or recycling?

Answers will vary. They are all equally important.

Which do you think you can do most easily: reduce, reuse or recycle?

Reducing and reusing should be much easier, especially to a child, than recycling. Simple acts around the house can help to reduce or reuse materials.

Answers to worksheet questions:

Page 1:

1. reuse - using your resources again without changing them
2. recycle - using your resources again after changing them
3. reduce - using less resources
4. landfill - using less resources

Page 2:

4. landfills
1. reduce
2. reuse
3. recycle

Page 3:

"List five ways to reduce the amount of trash in your home."

Encourage your child to develop their answers for their home or community.

"List five new ways you can reuse things in your home."

Answers will vary

Day Two:

Today, you and your child will:

1. Review Day One using the following text
2. Run the first activity this week

The following text will give you the most important items to review for your activity today.

The recycling of some objects require them to be changed by separation, cleaning or filtering. These actions can remove the raw materials from the recycled object so that it can be used again.

The recycling of newspaper involves the "separation" of the entire paper through cutting, "cleaning" of the ink from the newspaper, and the "filtering" of water out of the mixture.

Homemade paper

Objective:

The child will be able to explore how paper can be recycled.

Materials:

Old newspaper

Blender

Water

Cornstarch

Window screen (or stretched out pantyhose!!!)

Wax paper

Rolling pin or large spoon

Large pan

Large bowl

Procedure:

Tear a page of newspaper into small pieces and Place them into a large bowl.

Add enough water to cover the paper and soak for 10 minutes.

While the paper is soaking, mix 1/4 cup of water with 1/8 cup of cornstarch.

Take the newspaper, discard the water and place it into the blender. Add the cornstarch and water mixture.

Blend on high for about two minutes.

Put the screen over the pan. (you may need to tape it down.) Pour the pulp onto the screen and spread it out so that it is flat and thin.

Cover the pulp with wax paper.

Use a rolling pin or a large spoon to squeeze out the excess water.

Slowly peel the wax paper off the pulp.

Allow to dry completely, about a day or two.

Slowly peel your new paper off the screen.

Explanation:

The recycling of paper is a business that exists in nearly every large city. Some cities even require this valuable resource to be recycled! In these areas, when your trash is taken out to be picked up, it is the homeowner's responsibility to separate their trash before it is removed.

The recycling project you just completed is very similar to the actual procedure in many of the large recycling plants. For an interesting twist, try placing dried flowers or other small items into your paper pulp for an interesting design. You may also include a handful of grass seed into the pulp. After you write on your paper, you can plant the sheet and watch your grass grow.

Day Three: Lab Activity

Today, you and your child will:

1. Review Day One using the following text
2. Run the first activity this week

The following text will give you the most important items to review for your activity today.

Using the three R's can be done inside and outside of one's home.

Careful use and disposal of items is a life skill that should be introduced to all young children.

When it is “wrong to belong”

Objective:

Students will identify objects that “do not belong” in their habitat

Materials:

Paper or plastic bag

Procedure:

Select an area for study (indoors or outdoors) and tell the child that he/she will be participating in a scavenger hunt. If it is possible, choose an area that your child has never been to before.

The child is given a bag to collect items that “do not belong” in the area you have chosen.

Give the child a small amount of time to find as many items as possible.

Come inside and wash your hands.

Discuss with your child about the items they found. Have them guess as to how they got there.

Explanation:

This activity is excellent to reinforce the concepts of reducing resources, reusing them and recycling. If possible, ask your child to determine if it is possible to reuse or recycle any of the items they have found.