

Ready's Recycle News

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Little Red Riding Hood: A Recycling Story...

Once upon a time there was a wolf who lived in a big, green forest up in the mountains. He was a very nice wolf, always kind to everybody. He loved the forest and he took good care of all the plants and animals in it.

One sunny day, as he was watering some wild berry bushes, he saw a little girl. She was dressed very strangely, all in red: she was wearing red gym shoes, red jeans, a red sweater and a red cloak with a huge red hood. She was carrying a basket and was throwing trash in the forest: cans, plastic bottles, and paper.

Naturally, the wolf got very upset because littering is not good for the environment. If everybody does that, soon there will be more waste in the forests. So he went to the little girl and, very politely, asked for her not to cause damage to the environment because there were recycling bins everywhere in the forest. The little girl laughed at him and said rudely: "You look very funny! Why is your nose so big?" The wolf said, "To help me smell better in case there is waste in the forest." "And why are your ears so big?" asked Little Red again. The wolf replied, "To help me hear better, in case people come to throw their rubbish around." explained the wolf. "And why are your eyes so big?" questioned Little Red. The wolf impatiently answered, "To help me see better, in case people decide to litter in the forest." "And why is your mouth so big?" wondered Little Red. Now the wolf was really angry with this nasty little girl. He wanted to teach her a lesson. "I've got a big mouth to help me eat mean little girls like you!" he said in a loud voice. The little girl got very scared and ran away towards the house at the end of the forest and never thought to litter again! Moral of the Story: **Don't Litter! Recycle!**

Enter our 2019 Environmental Calendar Contest! Ask your teacher for an entry form. You design a drawing on regular 8.5 by 11 inch paper following one of the three themes: "Every drop of water matters", "Don't hurt the dirt!" or "Don't trash it, recycle!" Send it in to us at the address at the top of the newsletter, following all entry rules, and you could win some awesome prizes!

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle Ideas for Your School Subjects

Reduce, reuse, recycle is a phrase that many of us have heard in school. Now we can incorporate these principles into the classroom to pass it on to others. These activities can help you to explore how to put this recycling phrase to use in many different ways. The following hands-on project ideas can be tailored to any grade level.

Observe how organic and inorganic materials decompose...

It's important to learn why you should reduce, reuse, recycle. A hands-on activity that shows how different kinds of materials decompose will help bring the concept to life. You can include your classmates too! As a class, choose a few different kinds of organic and inorganic materials to observe. Predict how long it will take for each item to decompose and keep a journal of your observations (example: it takes 3-5 weeks for banana peels to decompose). Younger students can make drawings of the materials and older students can write more detailed descriptions of what they observe. The goal of this lesson is to show that only the organic material decomposes quickly—inorganic materials will sit around in landfills for a long time. Many of these materials are easy to recycle! (Subjects: Science, language arts)

Start a composting project...

Composting is one way to reuse organic material that may otherwise end up in a landfill. This project can be done on a small scale inside the classroom or on school grounds, or you can make it an integral part of how your school works (example: raising food for your school cafeteria and composting the remains). Use this hands-on project as a way to begin learning about how organic materials decompose. This is another journaling opportunity for you as you observe how your compost project changes over time. Many composting units ideal for classroom use can be found at Lowes, Menards, and Home Depot. (Subjects: Science, language arts)

Calculate your impact (home or school)...

We all want to contribute to something bigger than ourselves and feel like we're making a difference. If we reduce our consumption, it's helpful to know what kind of impact it can make. Here are some questions and ideas to consider:

- Calculate how much trash you generate in a day, week, month, and year.
- Calculate how much trash your family, the school, your city, town or state generates per year.
- What are some ways you could reduce your trash production and carbon dioxide emissions?
- How might recycling more and throwing away less reduce your family or your school's trash collection bills and save on carbon emissions for trash pickups?

(Subjects: Math, science)

Write proposals to companies and lawmakers...

Connect with local businesses or lawmakers so that you can make a bigger impact by promoting recycling and reducing carbon dioxide emissions. For example, a second grader convinced fast food chains to use more recycled paper products.

Find a local business or lawmaker you would like to influence. Write a letter asking them to take action to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions such as using more recycled materials, composting their organic waste, or supporting laws that will protect local forests. Think about who would be the best person to receive the letter, which action you want the business or lawmaker to take and reasons why that action is important. Younger students could choose one business or lawmaker to write to as a class. Older students can conduct research on the different waste reduction ideas that are proposed, including that data in a letter or presentation sent to important legislators.

(Subjects: Language arts, civics)

Questions for Reduce, Reuse, and Recycling Research:

What organizations help the community reduce, reuse, or recycle? What services do they provide and how do they protect the environment?

What are some ways we can repair or reuse items instead of throwing them away?

What are some important moments in history related to reducing, reusing, and recycling? For example, laws, practices, or inventions.

How do other countries around the world reduce, reuse, or recycle?

