

Don't be a Litterbug

This lesson gives students the chance to get creative with recycled goods. Emphasizing the “re-use” component of recycling, students will combine recyclables such as, newspaper and other recyclable materials to make “bugs.” The bugs will then be hung on a litterbug wall of fame.

Early Years

Grade 2

Thinking Concepts and Skills

- Cutting, gluing, creating
- Sorting recycled goods from garbage
- Awareness of “litterbug” stigma
- Working in a group or as a team

Students' Tasks to Demonstrate Learning

Activate:

1. Start a discussion with the class about recycling.
 - a. What do you already know about recycling? What is it? Why is it important?
 - b. Do you recycle? Do your parents? If so, what do they put in the blue bin? Do you know why?
2. Ask the students if they can give examples of recyclable items and start a list on the board.
 - a. Have students draw parallels with like items (plastics, paper, cardboard, aluminum and steel) – these are recycling categories.

Acquire:

1. Brainstorm with class to create a list of questions they want to know about recycling.
2. Use the MMSM's [Tale of Recycling](#) to provide an intro to recycling, to learn about the recycling categories and where your recyclables go once the recycling truck picks them up.

3. Have students bring in a few recyclables from home. *To reduce contamination rates, we always want to make sure our recyclables are empty.*
4. Lead a class discussion about the recyclable item(s) students brought and why they're recyclable.
 - a. Discuss contamination – what does it mean if your recycling is contaminated? What can you do to reduce contamination?
 - b. Discuss littering – What is littering? Why is it bad for the environment?

Apply:

1. Divide class into partners or groups.
2. Distribute recyclable items along with creative supplies such as scissors, glue, tape, string, pipe cleaners, pompoms, googly eyes, etc.
3. Have students collaborate, get creative and make bugs
4. Have each group present their bug and name the items they used to create it.

Additional Resources

- <http://simplyrecycleschools.ca> – MMSM's A tale of Recycling Interactive Story
- MMSM's recycling journal

