

Blue Sleuth Activities

Activity #2: Recycle Today!

Mini-Poster Activity

Overview:

Students discuss ways to reduce the world of waste and create a mini-poster that makes sorting trash from recyclables easy.

Arizona Department of Education Academic Standards:

Please refer to the Arizona Department of Academic Standards section for the ADE standards addressed by this lesson.

Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- ➔ identify and list what can be recycled in Tucson
- ➔ discuss ways to organize home and school recycling centers

You will need:

- *Meet the Recyclables* - one photocopy, or display using a Smart Board or overhead projector
- white paper
- markers or colored pencils

Directions: *(estimated time 60-90 minutes)*

1. Meet the Recyclables!

- Ask students “Do you know what we can recycle in Tucson?”.
- Display *Meet the Recyclables* (use a print copy or a Smart Board or overhead projector).
- Introduce each recyclable to the class: Paige Paper, Gabby Glass, Mike Metal and Pete Plastic.
- For each recyclable category, ask students to provide examples and list on the board. (Refer to Page 21 for a detailed list of materials that can be recycled in Tucson.)

2. Recycling at Home

- Remind the students that recycling is something they can do now - they don't need to wait to be grown-ups! By recycling, students will help save natural resources, such as trees, water, minerals, and desert plants and animals.
- Ask students “What can you do at home to make recycling easy and fun for the whole family?” and “How can you help your family to remember what can be recycled?”.
- Have students create mini-posters incorporating the four recyclable categories as well as the items listed on the board. Students should take their posters home to place near their family's recycling barrel.

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(continued)

3. Recycling at School

- Ask students “What might we do to reduce the amount of trash we produce as a class?”.
- As students brainstorm, write their ideas on the board.
- After a list has been created, lead the class into agreement on which strategies could make the most difference and prioritize the list. Some examples: using both sides of a piece of paper, buying only what we need, looking for products with the least amount of packaging, buying recycled products, giving books, toys and clothes we no longer need to charity or friends.
- Then take concrete steps to set these strategies in motion. For example, if “use back of old homework for scratch paper” is listed, set up a basket or box for the class to collect paper that is clean on one side.
- If “create a classroom recycling program” is listed, set up an appropriate container and collection schedule.
- Keep it simple and make it FUN!

Extension Ideas:

- Have students cut out pictures of recyclable materials from newspapers and magazines and paste them onto their mini-posters.
- Sign up for the national school recycling competition at recycle-bowl.org and enter to win prizes for your school.

Meet the Recyclables

