



REUSE CLASS FAIR

(Grade 4, 5, 6)

Your class can create a "science fair"-like display in your classroom. The theme? **REUSE**

While reduction is the most valuable practice of the 3 R's that we can follow, there are certain items that are still difficult to adjust to living without. These items may come in containers that are simply used once before being recycled. There are also some containers that cannot be recycled, so they may be going straight into the garbage. What better way to raise our awareness of these single-use items than by showcasing their potential for other uses.

Curriculum Links:

Grade 4: Oral Communication: Developing and Organizing Content, Using Knowledge

Writing: Developing and Organizing Content, Using Knowledge of Form and Style in Writing

Grade 5: Oral Communication: Listening to Understand, Writing: Applying Knowledge of Language Conventions and Presenting Written Work Effectively

Grade 6: Oral Communication: Listening to Understand, Speaking to Communicate, Writing: Developing and Organizing Content, Applying Knowledge of Language Conventions and Presenting Written work Effectively

Time: 2 or 4 class periods before the fair (variable) depending on how you choose to present the activities

Part 1- INTRO: 45 minutes

Part 2-CREATION: 60 minutes

Part 3-WRITING: 30 minutes

Part 4-DISPLAY: 30 minutes

Part 5-FAIR: 90 minutes

Materials

- items to be reused (see possible list following)
- paper (preferably reused)
- cardboard or construction paper (preferably reused)

The Lesson:

Part 1: INTRO

1. Introduce the idea of items that are put in the garbage or recycling
2. Brainstorm with your class items that are normally tossed in the garbage or recycling that could instead be reused
3. Write the items on the board to create a collage of ideas. You may even have students write on the board to create a different visual effect.
4. Try to categorize the items on the board to get a general idea of where the waste is coming from (food, home, school, paper products, plastic products)(is it packaging?)

While the objective of this lesson is not REDUCTION, it may become a topic for discussion when students are reviewing their items.

Divide class into smaller groups (2 or 4 students)

5. Have each group pick one item to focus on for their reuse fair display.
6. Hand out scrap paper for groups to write (you may choose to print Appendix 1 handout on the other side of used paper, or simply use scrap paper)
7. Have students brainstorm in their groups to collect ideas for new uses
8. Select their three favourite new uses
9. Students will have to collect the necessary items to use in their project. Set a reasonable timeline for students to collect these items. (1 week?)(perhaps other students in the class may have items to share)

Part 2: CREATION

10. Students create their new reused items.

Part 3: WRITING

11. Have the students write about their items, based on the following categories
 - i) The Original Item: Describe your item and what its traditional use would be.
Describe how many times it would normally be used.
 - ii) New Re-used Items # 1, 2, 3: *What?* Describe the purpose of the new reused item and how it can be used.
How? Describe how you created the new item.



Part 4: DISPLAY

12. Post the writing portion of the assignment on cardboard or construction paper to display with the new items. A good option is to take a side of a cereal box and fold it in half, like a card. Glue the writing to one side of the card, landscape layout, and set the card down on the table. Allow students to be as creative as they wish, time permitting, especially if it involves REUSING items!
13. Have students present their items to the class, explaining the process and purpose of the new items. This presentation will also serve as practice for the fair.

Part 5: THE FAIR!

14. Invite other classes in the school to visit your fair.
15. Have them sign up for a specific time slot (Appendix 2)
16. Have your students set up their reused items around the classroom with the written information.
17. Students stand nearby to their display to explain their items, processes and answer any questions other students may have.

Part 6: CELEBRATE!

What an accomplishment for the class! They will likely be very excited about having had the opportunity to share their ideas with the rest of the school. Keep the positive mood flowing and consider introducing other environmentally themed lessons in the future.

Resources:

Reuse - Household Items A to Z

<http://www.purdue.edu/envirosoft/housewaste/src/reuse4.htm>

All Things Frugal

<http://www.allthingsfrugal.com/r.re-use.htm> (2009)

The Good Human

<http://www.thegoodhuman.com/2008/06/17/25-ways-to-reuse-everyday-items-instead-of-throwing-them-away/> (2009)

Kaboose

<http://crafts.kaboose.com/holidays/earth-day/reusing-materials-make-new-crafts.html> (2009)



Possible items to reuse:

Single serving yogurt container

Larger yogurt container

Milk carton

Milk bags

Toilet paper roll

Bread bag

Cereal box

Cracker box

Soup can

Pop can

Twist ties

Corks

Waxed paper coffee cups

Newspapers

Envelopes

Junk mail

Water bottles

And many more!

Possible new uses for items:

Flower pot for starting seeds, desk organizer

Bank (with hole cut in lid), storage

Sand shovel, clothespin holder

Food baggies

Pencil holder, spy lens, paper file (sideways)

Lunch bag, dog do-do bag

Magazine holder, cue cards (cut up)

picture frames (cut up)

decorate for pen holder, toy drum

craft into Santa, snowman

holding cords, key chain

cork board, toy cars

coin holders, toy houses, bird seed scoops

envelopes, wrapping paper

scrap paper, shopping lists

decorate picture frames/pen holders

cut to create funnel for liquid or bird seed

and so many more!

