

Recycle It

Learning Objectives

- I can create strategies to keep the environment healthy, including proper disposal of trash and recycling (VAH1.3q)
- I can understand that natural resources are limited and practice recycling, reusing, and reducing the consumption of natural resources. (VA Science 1.8c)

Teacher Notes

- Recycling brings in over \$1.86 billion dollars into economy, creates over 8,000 jobs and over 3 million tons of debris is diverted from our landfills.
- Composting items enriches our soil helping to keep moisture in the ground and inhibit plant diseases and pests. It also helps reduce the need for chemical fertilizers.
- Materials
 - (Sorting Mat) 5 different colors of cardstock with aluminum, plastic, paper and compost areas printed on each one (attached)
 - (Sorting Cards) 5 sets of 10 pictures of recyclable items, each on their own color cardstock that matches the colors of the sorting mats. (attached)
 - 5 cones or spots to identify starting points (relay lines) for students.

Lesson Steps

Step 1

- Ask students if anyone recycles at home. Have students discuss what they recycle.
- Explain what composting is and ask if any students participate in that activity at home. Discuss things that are compostable (non-animal food scraps like fruits, vegetables, bread, cereal, coffee grounds as well as leaves and grass clippings)
- Talk about items that can be recycled (aluminum, paper, plastic, cardboard, etc... and things that can't be recycled (Styrofoam, used paper towels, wax boxes, etc...)

Step 2

- Prior to instruction, set up cones in your classroom or outside that will serve as a beginning point for a relay type activity and place a sorting mat at each cone.
- Divide students in to 5 groups and assign them a starting cone with a sorting mat.
- Tell students they are going to be playing a game today where they get to recycle and compost.
- Explain that although we may put multiple items into a recycle container, when it gets to the recycling plant, it gets sorted into groups based on the type of material it is.
- Point to the sorting mat with the 4 different areas and identify each one.



- Tell students this is where they will be sorting their products. Some of them are for the recycling plant and others are for composting.
- Explain that one at a time a student from their group will skip to the cards that match their color sorting mat, grab one and bring it back to their group.
- Students should show their picture card to their team upon their return and decide what part of the mat it should be sorted to and then place it on the mat.
- Tell students that the next person in line then retrieves another picture card of their color and returns. This continues until all picture cards have been retrieved and sorted.
- Differentiation strategies
 - Instead of sorting mats, you can have title cards and students can sort below the title.
 - Have students exercise in their line while they wait for a teammate to return.
 - Have students use different locomotor skills to retrieve cards (hop, jump, run, jog, gallop, etc...)

Step 3)

- Have students share ways they can help recycle at school and home.

Assessments

- Call out each section of the sorting mat and the items that belong in each section.
- Students will self-check their team's answers.

Extensions/Connections

[Mission Save Earth - A virtual Earth Day PE workout activity and Brain Break](#)

This short video will have students jumping, dodging and ducking and other physical activities while thinking about recycling and saving our Mother Earth.

Resources/References

Handout

Attached sorting cards to be copied and cut.

Attached sorting mat to be copied.

Sorting Cards

<p>Banana peel</p> 	<p>Apple Core</p> 	<p>Water Bottle</p> 	<p>Milk Jug</p> 
<p>Newspaper</p> 	<p>Empty Bag</p> 	<p>Aluminum Foil</p> 	<p>Soda Cans</p> 
<p>Empty Fruit Can</p> 	<p>Paper</p> 	<p>Boxes</p> 	<p>Shoe Box</p> 



Sample Lesson Plan
Virginia 2020 SOL Edition
GR1-CEH-3
Essential Health Concepts
Advocacy and Health
Promotion
Environmental Health
Tammy Underwood WJCC

Sorting Mat

ALIMINUM	PAPER	PLASTIC

COMPOST	CARDBOARD