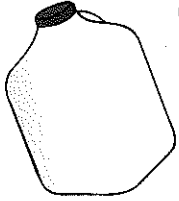


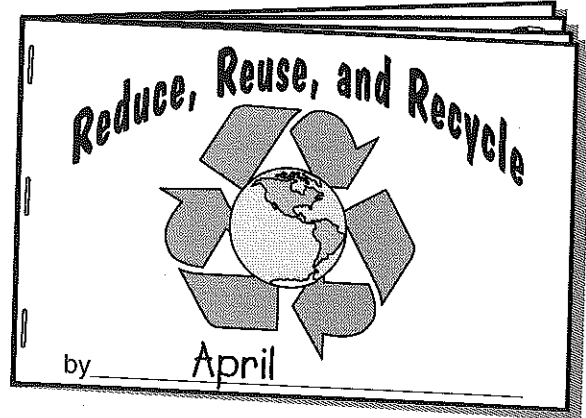
Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle

Use this collection of activities to teach your students about the three Rs—Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle—and help make the earth a healthier, cleaner planet.



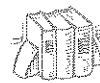
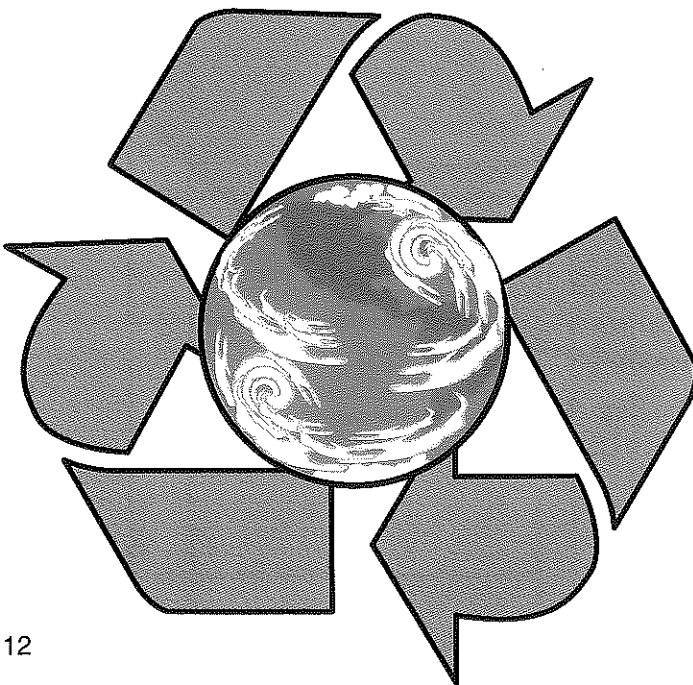
Begin With the Basics— The Three Rs (Bookmaking, Research)

Create awareness of the basics of recycling by first teaching your students the three Rs—*reduce*, *reuse*, and *recycle*. Begin by explaining to your students the difference between reducing, reusing, and recycling (see Background for the Teacher). Tell your students that they are going to create their own picture booklets about the three Rs. Give each student a copy of pages 17 and 18. Also give each student crayons and scissors. Instruct the student to write definitions for *reduce*, *reuse*, and *recycle* on the appropriate booklet pages. Then have the student draw an illustration for each term. Instruct each student to cut the booklet pages apart along the bold lines, stack them in order with the cover on top, and staple the booklets together as shown. Encourage your students to take their booklets home to share with their parents.



Background for the Teacher

- *Reduce*—to create less waste.
- *Reuse*—to use the same item again or to use an old product for a new purpose.
- *Recycle*—to use the material of an old product to make a new product instead of throwing it away.
- The average American produces about three pounds of trash every day.
- Common recyclable materials include aluminum and steel cans, glass containers, plastic, and paper.
- Recycling conserves raw materials needed by manufacturers.
- Recycling reduces the pollution that may result from disposing of waste material.
- Recyclable materials have the most value when they're not mixed in with the rest of your garbage. Separating your trash saves the expense of using special equipment to separate the recyclables from the nonrecyclables.
- *Composting*—a process of letting collected organic waste (yard and food waste) decompose into a substance that can be used for fertilizer.



Reading Is Recyclable!

- Fifty Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth* by The Earthworks Group (Andrews McMeel Publishing, 1990)
- Gardens From Garbage: How to Grow Indoor Plants From Recycled Kitchen Scraps* by Judith F. Handelsman (The Millbrook Press, Inc.; 1994)
- The Great Trash Bash* by Loreen Leedy (Holiday House, Inc.; 1991)
- Waste, Recycling and Re-Use* (Protecting Our Planet series) by Steve Parker (Raintree Steck-Vaughn Publishers, 1998)
- The Wump World* by Bill Peet (Houghton Mifflin Company, 1981)