

Lesson Plan: Let's Recycle! Fun Facts About Recycling

Grade Level: 5 years old and upwards

Lesson Duration: 30-40 minutes

Subject: Environmental Science

Lesson Objectives:

By the end of the lesson, students will:

1. Understand the importance of recycling and how it helps protect the environment.
 2. Learn what materials can be recycled.
 3. Explore the impact of recycling on saving energy, reducing pollution, and protecting trees.
 4. Be encouraged to actively recycle in their daily lives.
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Materials Needed:

- Video Tutorial by DiscoverlifeSkills.com: Let's Recycle! Fun Facts About Recycling
 - Visual aids (e.g., pictures of recyclable items: paper, plastic, glass, etc.)
 - A few recyclable and non-recyclable items for a sorting activity (e.g., a plastic bottle, paper, glass jar, food waste)
 - A recycling bin or container (optional)
 - A simple diagram showing the recycling process
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Introduction (5-7 minutes)

1. Start with a question:

- Ask: "Do you know what recycling means? Have you ever seen a recycling bin or recycled something yourself? Today, we're going to learn how recycling helps the Earth and why it's so important!"

2. Define Recycling:

- Explain that recycling is like giving things we don't need anymore a second chance to be useful. Instead of throwing them away as trash, we can turn them into something new.
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Main Lesson (15 minutes)

1. Cool Facts About Recycling:

- **Fact 1:** Recycling Saves Energy
 - Explain that making new things from recycled materials uses less energy than making things from scratch.
 - Show pictures of things that can be recycled, like paper and plastic, and talk about how this helps save energy.
- **Fact 2:** We Can Recycle Lots of Things
 - Explain that many items like newspapers, cans, and bottles can be recycled.
 - Ask students to name some things at home or school that they think can be recycled.
- **Fact 3:** Recycling Reduces Pollution
 - Explain that recycling keeps trash out of landfills and prevents chemicals from getting into the air and water.
 - Show a picture of a landfill, explaining why it's important to reduce the amount of trash we send there.
- **Fact 4:** It's Easy to Recycle
 - Talk about how communities have recycling bins for paper, plastic, and glass. Explain how simple it is to put recyclables into the right bin.
- **Fact 5:** Recycling Helps Save Trees
 - Explain that when we recycle paper, we can make new paper without cutting down more trees. Trees are important because they give us oxygen and provide homes for animals.
 - Show a picture of a forest and discuss why we should protect it.

Interactive Activity: Recycle or Trash? (10-15 minutes)

Step 1: Sorting Game

- Gather a few recyclable and non-recyclable items (e.g., plastic bottle, paper, glass jar, food waste).
- Lay them out on a table or in front of the students.

Step 2: Sort the Items

- Ask students to come up one by one and pick an item. Have them decide whether it should go in the recycling bin or the trash.
- For each item, discuss why it can or cannot be recycled. For example, "The plastic bottle can be recycled because it's made from a material that can be used again."

Step 3: Review the Results

- After sorting all the items, review the recyclable ones, and explain how they can be turned into new products.

Conclusion & Reflection (5 minutes)

1. Recap:

- Review the key points: Recycling helps save energy, reduces pollution, and protects trees. We can recycle many things, and it's easy to do!

2. Reflection Question:

- Ask: "What is one thing you can start recycling at home or at school? How will it help the Earth?"

3. Closing Thought:

- Encourage the students to recycle whenever they can, reminding them that every small effort makes a big difference for the planet.

Assessment:

- Observe student participation during the sorting activity.
 - Ask students to explain why recycling is important and name one item they can recycle at home.
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Extension (Optional):

- **Art Project:** Have students create artwork using recyclable materials, such as bottle caps or cardboard. They can turn their "trash" into "treasure" by making something new!
- **Recycling Chart:** Encourage students to create a recycling chart at home or school, where they can track how many items they recycle each day.