

Social Studies Theme: Citizenship

Lesson: *Responsibility and Scarcity*

Grade Level: 1-4

Overview: Students will learn that to make our garbage problem smaller, we can recycle our natural resources.

Approximate Duration: one class period

National Social Studies Standards:

NSS-C.K-4.5 Roles of the Citizen

http://www.educationworld.com/standards/national/soc_sci/civics/k_4.shtml

NSS-EC.K-4.1 Scarcity

http://www.educationworld.com/standards/national/soc_sci/economics/k_4.shtml

Objective: Students will be able to understand the importance of recycling and their responsibility as an American citizen to not misuse our limited natural resources.

Procedure:

- Begin by asking students to share any recycling they do at home or at school. Encourage them to tell what they recycle and how they do it. Then have students gather objects in the classroom that can be recycled.
- Display a plastic milk jug and ask students to brainstorm ways that the jug can be recycled, or used in another way.
- Point to objects in the classroom such as paper, furniture, and glass and ask students the natural products from which each object originated. Then ask them what they think might happen if everyone used each object once, and then threw it away.
- Read the "Our Garbage, Our Problem" handout aloud to the class.
- Lead the discussion to include reasons why we should conserve, or save our land and discuss the consequences of wasting or destroying these natural resources. Incorporate the ways the class Victory Garden is utilizing resources and land to avoid these consequences.

Assessment:

- Write these two statements on the chalkboard:
Recycling is a waste of time.
Recycling can save the earth.
- Encourage a class debate by dividing the class in half. Have half the class argue reasons for the first statement, and the other half give reasons for the second statement.
- Have groups of students create posters that encourage people to recycle. Label the posters "Recycling to Save Our Resources" and display them in a public place.



- **Technology integration:** Using a Powerpoint slideshow of images, show students slogan posters from World War II era (i.e. Rosie the Riveter, “War Gardens for Victory,” etc.). Then ask students to use iPads or paper to draw posters encouraging recycling.

Our Garbage, Our Problem

To make our garbage problem smaller, we can recycle our natural resources.

I. The Garbage Problem

A. People in the United States throw away too much garbage.

B. Much of the garbage is from packaging.

C. Packaging harms the environment because it decomposes slowly.



II. Recycling – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

A. We can throw away less garbage.

B. We can use some garbage to make things we need.

III. You Can Help – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

A. You can recycle your garbage at home.

B. You can recycle at school.

C. You can write letters to lawmakers to ask for recycling centers.