

**Recycling**

Goal: The students will learn about the importance of taking care of our world. Students will gain knowledge about the benefits of recycling and discover ways that they can help at home, at school, and in the community. One person may not be able to save the entire world but if each student does a small part in recycling and saving, it will make a huge difference.

Quote for the week: "The small extra things that we do can create unexpected ripples that expand to improve our government and society." Paul Simon, 52 Simple Ways to Make a Difference, page 63

Materials needed:

1. Boxes for crayon collects and supplies to decorate the boxes.
2. Box for "Re-use Paper Box"
3. Copies of recycle puzzle for Tuesday
4. Poster board
5. Supplies for Friday's class depends on your selected activities.
6. Box to ship crayons
7. Plastic

Preparation: What type of recycling is done in your community and who is in charge of that recycling process? What type of recycling is done in your school?

**MONDAY**

- Cutting down trees, polluting our environment, littering, creating more and more trash, automobiles, factories, and many other activities by man have caused a change in our climate. The earth's atmosphere is warming up and the rising temperature is hurting our world. Icebergs are melting, causing a rise in sea levels. We are cutting down trees and clearing forests which not only provide homes for many birds and animals but also are an important factor in keeping our air clean. Gases emitted by vehicles and factories trap the heat of the earth in our atmosphere and keep it from escaping into space. This is called the greenhouse effect. It keeps the temperature of our atmosphere warmer which effects plants, icebergs, seas, animals, and our weather.
- We each need to do our part in saving our planet. Even the smallest effort can have a huge effect.
- Plan with the children ways that they can do small things at home, at school, and in their community.
- Explain to the children that something as simple as throwing a broken crayon away can pollute our world. Crayons do not breakdown in the landfills and so they add to the amount of trash that we create in our world. Make a plan to collect broken and old crayons during this week. Collect them to use either in a future art project or recycle them by sending them to the address at [www.crazycravons.com](http://www.crazycravons.com) . This can be done as a class project or do it as an entire school project. Have the children decorate boxes to put in each classroom in the school. Encourage the children to go through their crayons at home and bring in the broken or old crayons to recycle.

**TUESDAY**

- Paper is made from trees. By cutting down on the paper we use, recycling papers, and making small efforts with our use of paper, we can save trees from having to be cut down.
- Talk about ways that you can save paper at home, at school, and in the community. Does your community recycle? How can the children and their families participate in the community's recycling program?
- Children can encourage their families to use reusable grocery bags rather than plastic or paper bags.
- Children can write with a pencil and use an eraser for errors rather than using a pen and starting over with a new piece of paper. Use an old piece of paper for a practice sheet before writing the finished lesson on a clean piece of paper.
- Use both sides of a piece of paper.
- Get a library card and check out a book rather than buying one a book that they will probably only read once or donate old or unwanted books to the public library for others to use.

- Make a "Re-Use Paper Box" for your classroom. Papers that have been marked on but have one clean side can be re-used for scratch paper or practice papers.
- Complete papers
- Don't forget to encourage them to bring in old or broken crayons this week

#### WEDNESDAY

- The school lunch room can be an excellent place to encourage recycling. Aluminum, metal, glass, plastics, and papers can all be recycled. If your school does not have recycling bins, have the children come up with a plan to present to the school board about recycling at the school
- If recycling at your school is not feasible, encourage the children to bring "waste free" lunches. Bring lunches in re-usable containers or encourage them to take their disposable items home to recycle rather than throwing them in the trash containers.
- Come up with a plan to have your cafeteria use re-usable containers. Present the plan to the administration or school board.
- Make posters to put up in the cafeteria encouraging recycling and using re-usable containers. Do a "Take It Home" campaign. A "Take It Home" campaign is to encourage students who bring lunch to bring it in containers that can be taken home, washed and reused or to encourage students to use containers that can be taken home to recycle at home.
- Collect old or broken crayons

#### THURSDAY

- Many things can be done at home to conserve and recycle. Set up recycle bins at home and learn how your community recycles.
- Give old clothes to a thrift shop. Many thrift shops will give away or sell usable items and will recycle unusable items.
- Use reusable grocery bags
- Donate old books
- Use re-usable plates and cups
- Turn off lights and unplug rechargers when not in use
- Close doors and windows
- Ride a bike to school or to run errands rather than taking a car
- Combine trips to run errands
- Carpool to school or to ballgames
- Buy recycled or green items at the store. Watch for marked recycled items or for items packaged as "green". For homework, have the children make a trip to the grocery store or check their homes for recycled or "green" items.
- Collect old or broken crayons
- Have the children select 4 things that they will encourage their families to do with recycling at home. Write these items in their journals. Each child should make a list of what supplies may be needed and what work must be done to accomplish these 4 recycling items.

#### FRIDAY

- Do your final collection of old or broken crayons. If you would like to use the crayons in an art project, plan to do that art project today.
- Suggestion: shave crayons with a sharpener, sprinkle variety of colors of shavings between two pieces of wax paper. Carefully press the two pieces of wax paper together using a hot iron. Wax paper pieces will stick together and crayon shavings will melt to make a stained glass effect. Insert wax paper creations into a frame made of construction paper and hang in windows so light can shine through.
- Suggestion: Make candles by melting same colored crayons with candle wax or paraffin. Put a taper candle in the middle of a cardboard milk carton, fill carton with ice cubes. Carefully pour melted crayons over the ice cubes to fill carton just to top of candle but do not cover the wick. Allow to cool and ice cubes to melt. When cooled completely, pour off water. Peel away carton to reveal a lacy looking candle.
- Crayola brand makes a crayon maker where you take old crayons and place them into the container. The crayons are melted slightly so that they form one crayon while maintaining their own colors.
- If you are not going to do an art project with the crayons, they can be recycled by sending them to the address at [www.crazycrayons.com](http://www.crazycrayons.com). Have the children box them up, weigh them, and prepare them for shipping.
- If you did a "Take It Home" campaign on Wednesday for your school, extend that "Take It Home" campaign to the entire school.

**Author: Necia Jannings – if you have any questions please contact at [nlirely@hotmail.com](mailto:nlirely@hotmail.com)**