



Theme: Sustainability (Grades 3-5)

Post-Visit Activity #1 Now What?

Overview:

Once the students have completed their tour of the Springs Preserve they will understand the importance of helping our Earth. Students will organize a swap meet for their grade and teach other students the importance of reusing objects instead of throwing them out.

Objectives:

- The students will practice re-using objects.
- The students will participate in their own swap meet.

Activity:

1. On the field trip to the Springs Preserve, students learned that they can reuse or recycle items to reduce the amount of trash they throw away. Review this with the students, asking what can be recycled and what they can do with items that can not be recycled. You may want to give examples for reuse, including clothes they have outgrown or old toys.
2. Explain that the students will now have the opportunity to practice reusing objects by organizing a swap meet for their grade.
3. Working with the other teachers in your grade, decide on a date, time, and location for a swap meet. Send a letter to parents informing them of the swap meet.
4. Working in small groups or as a class, students should come up with ways to advertise the swap meet to other students in the grade, and educate other students about reusing items.
5. Have students bring in two items from home that they do not use. You can request that items be brought in the day of the swap meet or a day or two earlier.
6. Display the items in a location where all students in the grade can see them before the swap meet.
7. To begin the swap meet, have students select a number out of a hat. This number determines who gets to go shopping first.
8. Have each student select one item.
9. Let all of the students shop, even those that may not have brought anything in.
10. The remaining objects can be donated to a charity of the group's choice.

Conclusion:

Discuss how important it is to re-use items and that someone's trash may be another person's treasure.

Suggested Reading:

1. ***Keepers of the Earth: Native American Stories and Environmental Activities for Children*** by Michael J. Caduto and Joseph Bruchac. Traditional Native American tales and related activities dealing with aspects of the environment.
2. ***Eco-Wolf and the Three Pigs*** by Laurence Anholt. Eco-Wolf knows it's important to give Mother Nature respect. Unlike the three big, bad pigs, and their pesky polluting plans...
3. ***Shelterwood*** by Susan Hand Shetterly. Sophie learns from her grandfather how to take care of trees in the forest.
4. ***The Lorax/El Lórax*** by Dr. Seuss. The Once-ler tells the story of the Lorax, who tried to protect the Truffula Trees.
5. ***The Wump World*** by Bill Peet. The Wumps are very frightened when the Pollutians come from space and take over their lush green planet. While the Wumps hide underground in caves, the Pollutians build great cities, but will the Wump world be destroyed forever?
6. ***The Wartville Wizard*** by Don Madden. Wartville is being buried in trash until one tidy old man realizes he has the power to get rid of all the trash forever.
7. ***Michael Recycle*** by Ellie Bethel. The town of Abberdoo-Rimey has a garbage problem, until Michael Recycle, a new kind of superhero, comes to the town with a plan.
8. ***Michael Recycle Meets Litterbug Doug*** by Ellie Bethel. Litterbug Doug is lazy, wasteful, messy, and hates recycling. It's up to Michael Recycle to show Doug the error of his ways before it's too late.
9. ***The Berenstain Bears Don't Pollute (Anymore)*** by Stan and Jan Berenstain. When careless citizens pose a threat to Bear Country's environment, Brother and Sister Bear form the Earthsavers Club.
10. ***Just a Dream*** by Chris Van Allsburg. Walter is a litterbug who thinks the future is going to be filled with great inventions. Walter wishes he could visit the future and when he falls asleep one night, his wish comes true. But the future is not what he'd imagined. When Walter returns to the present, he is changed and so are his dreams.