



## Theme: Sustainability (Grades K-2)

### Pre-Visit Activity #2 Second Chances

#### Overview:

Before tossing a household item, especially one that is not easily recycled, consider whether it could be re-used in some useful way. Finding another purpose for a box, bag, or jar takes a load off landfills.

#### Objectives:

- Students will recognize the importance of re-using items.
- Students will realize that not everything needs to be disposed of.

#### Materials:

- Cereal Boxes
- Yogurt Cups
- Cans
- Various trash (clean) from home and the classroom such as containers, boxes, plastic bags, fabric scraps, metal and plastic lids, etc.

#### Activity:

1. Have students bring in various items that can be reused and brainstorm ideas for how they can be used in the classroom.
2. You may want to use the examples below.

#### **Cereal Boxes:** Store class assignments, magazines, or books

1. Using a ruler and a pencil, draw diagonal lines on the wider sides of the cereal box, starting from the top corner and ending halfway down the box.
2. Connect the two lines by drawing a horizontal line across the slimmer side.
3. Cut out the entire top along the traced lines.
4. The box can be decorated if you choose.

#### **Yogurt Cups:** Store art supplies

1. Any lidded container can securely store supplies or leftover paints.
2. Containers without lids can be used as water cups, or to store taller materials such as pipe cleaners or popsicle sticks.

**Cans:** Store pencils, brushes, markers and anything else you can think of.

1. Carefully remove the can's label.
2. Thoroughly wash out the cans.
3. Using the label as your guide, cut a piece of decorative ribbon, wallpaper scrap, or construction paper to size.
4. Apply water-resistant glue to the back of the paper or ribbon, wrap around the can and press.

### **Suggested Reading:**

1. ***Keepers of the Earth: Native American Stories and Environmental Activities for Children*** by Michael J. Caduto and Joseph Bruchac
2. ***I Can Save the Earth!*** By Alison Inches. Max is a little monster who likes to litter and never, ever recycles. Then the electricity goes out and he sees how exciting and beautiful the Earth is... and that it will need his help to stay that way!
3. ***It's Earth Day!*** By Mercer Mayer. Little Critter decided to do his part to slow down global warming with help from his friends and family.
4. ***The Garbage Monster*** by Joni Sensel. Jo is slow to take out the family garbage one evening, so the garbage hauls her out!
5. ***The Dumpster Diver*** by Janet S. Wong. Steve delves into the trash each weekend, encouraging his young neighbors to see the potential in what other people throw away.
6. ***The Great Trash Bash*** by Loreen Leedy. Beaston seems like a perfect town until Mayor Hippo realizes it has too much trash. The residents go on a trash bash, getting rid of their trash and changing their habits.
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 Day the Trash Came Out to Play*** by David M. Beadle. When Robin throws a candy wrapper on the street, he unintentionally starts an event of landfill proportions. Can Robin fix it before everything is buried under a pile of unruly trash?
10. ***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.