**Kindergarten**

**Trash VS Recycle: Opening Activities and Conversation**

* **Goal:** Students will be introduced to recycling. Conversation and activities are centered around what can be recycled, what recyclable materials are made from and the difference between what is trash and what is a recyclable.
* **Big Ideas:** Many human actions adversely affect the land, water, air and local environment. Humans can make choices to reduce their negative impact and improve the environment.
* **Standards met:**
  + ESS3.C: Human Impacts on Earth’s Systems: Things that people do to live comfortably can affect the world around them. But they can make choices that reduce their impacts on land, water, air, and other living things.
  + Language Arts W.2.8: Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.
* **Prior Knowledge:** Students may or may not enter this conversation with prior knowledge of recycling. The objective of this lesson is to introduce the topic of recycling. Prior knowledge is helpful but not a necessity to carry out this lesson.
* **Resources:**
* **Vocabulary:**
* **Time frame:** 20 to 30 minutes
* **Materials:**
  + Sheets of lined paper (x5)
  + Plastic water bottle (x5)
  + Glass Jar (x5)
  + Metal Can (x5)
  + 8x10 picture of: Tree, Oil, Sand, Ore (5 of each, all labeled)
  + White Board or Large paper
  + Markers
  + Recyclable materials: equal amounts of glass, paper, plastic, and metal
  + Trash: Mylar bags (potato chip bags), things made up of two or more materials (hot chocolate containers- cardboard and metal), dirty plastic or glass, ect.
  + Bins labeled (plastic, glass, metal, paper) to sort recycling and trash bin
* **Procedure:**
  + Begin with a conversation using open ended questions. Allow students time to reflect on the questions and write down their responses.
    - What does the word “recycling” mean? What items can be recycled? What items go in the trash? Where does paper (plastic, glass, metal) go after you put in it in the recycling bin? Where does trash go after you put it in the trash can? What happens if you throw something on the ground instead of recycling it? (Focus this area of conversation on the fact that materials that get recycled are then able to be re-used whereas items put in the trash end up in a landfill. Items in a landfill, as well as items thrown on the ground can be detrimental to the environment but making the choice to recycle helps improve our environment. Provide information, but let students draw these conclusions.)
  + Activity One:
    - Conversation as a large group: We just learned that paper, plastic, glass and metal can be recycled. What on the earth is used to make paper? Plastic? Glass? Metal? Write down answers.
    - Split into five groups, giving each group a set of pictures and recyclable products from materials list above: Match recyclable objects (sheets of paper, water bottle, glass jar, metal can) to what they’re made from (tree, oil, sand, ore).
  + Activity Two:
    - Still in small groups, distribute variety of recyclable materials and trash. Have students sort materials into appropriate bins placed around the room. Students can also recycle materials used from the previous activity. Once all materials have been put into bins, go through each bin, having students check for accuracy. If something is in the wrong bin, have a student place it in the correct bin. After checking all bins, come back together as a large group for wrap-up.
* **Results/Conclusions/Wrap-up:** As a large group, ask some open-ended questions allowing students to process and re-cap the information they have just learned. Questions should include but not limited to: What materials can be recycled? What is paper (plastic, glass, metal) made from? What items go in the trash? What happens when something is recycled vs. what happens when something is thrown in the trash? Emphasize the importance of recycling and making the choice to recycle rather than throw items away can positively impact the world around us.