



WASTE NOT, RECYCLE RIGHT

Overview:

Students explore waste reduction and sustainability. Through a series of games, debates, and experiments students examine waste management and how we use our resources to understand how renewable and non-renewable materials are treated in our society. Students reflect upon their own actions to understand how they can establish more environmentally sustainable habits.

Standards: and Materials:

- This unit is designed to meet Nebraska Content Area Standards in science, social studies, and language arts. Specific standards met for each grade level are indicated on each lesson plan.
- This unit is designed for grades K-6. Lessons can be adapted for additional grade levels.
- The resource kit contains all the materials necessary for these activities in the curriculum.

The Big Questions:

- What is waste management and why should I know about it?
- Why are some materials "better" than others? OR Why can't we just recycle everything? Still not a huge fan of the word choice here... but want kids to understand that different materials serve different purposes, but sometimes we can make a choice to eliminate materials that are more tricky to manage on the back end.
- How can I make a difference?

Objectives:

- Students will define environmental sustainability.
- Students will understand the difference between renewable and non-renewable resources.
- Students will gain an understanding that some materials cause greater litter and pollution issues than others.
- Students will understand the waste management hierarchy.
- Students will analyze their own waste.
- Students will discover many things that people can do to help protect Earth's resources.
- Students will reflect on their own habits and establish personal goals to help impact the environment around them in a positive way.
- Students will participate in service-learning activities.





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Guidance Note:

Some of these activities are best suited for younger audiences while others are best suited for older students. Curriculum kits include the materials for **all** of the activities. When registering for this unit, a teacher will receive personalized assistance from a Keep Omaha Beautiful educator to **select** activities that fit best with their curriculum and match the skills and abilities of their students.

	Estimated Time	Description
Renewable or Not?	45 minutes	Students explore the concept of sustainability through a natural resources consumption simulation game.
Need or Want?	30 minutes	X
Reduce, Reuse, or Recycle: Which is best?	45-60 minutes	Students define what it means to reduce, reuse, and recycle and then debate which is most important.
Make a Difference: Litter Cleanup	30-60 minutes	Help take care of the environment around you! This activity can be repeated several times during this unit.
Story of Waste	20 minutes	Students participate in a simulation activity to understand what happens to waste when it is littered, recycled, composted, or disposed of in the garbage.
Right Place Relay	30 minutes	Students participate in a relay race to explore how to properly dispose of their waste using the options commonly available in Omaha: recycling, energy bag, and landfill.
Classroom Waste Sort	30 - 45 minutes	X





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	Estimated Time	Description
Classroom Waste Assessment	varies	X
Upcycling	30-60 minutes	X
Understanding Plastics	minutes	X
Litter Cleanup Activity - Analyzing the data	45-60 minutes	Students clean up litter in their neighborhood or around their school and collect and analyze data about the litter they collect.
Make a Difference: Personal Pledge	45 minutes	Students brainstorm changes they can make in their daily lives to live more sustainably. Students set one personal goal to make a change to positively impact the environment and their community.

