

## Get Ready to Learn about Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling Waste...

And Have Fun Too!

page at <www.epa.gov/epaoswer/education> The Quest for Less or for additional resources

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### tebruary Love Letters to the Earth

March

Mr. Yuk Means Poison Help!

on Mr. Yuk's face.

Pittsburgh Poison Cent 3705 Fifth Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15241

\*Note: This activity is not part of The Quest For Less

For this activity, children will write letters or draw an illustr describing: 1) what they like about the Earth, 2) what they to reuse products or recycle, and/or 3) what they can and v to reuse products or recycle, and/or 3) what they can and will do in the future to reuse products or recycle.

- Materials Needed:

  ◆ Pencils and paper

  ◆ Various colors of construction paper

  ◆ Crayons or markers
- on the blackboard for all to see. If children run out of ideas, ask
- n stimulating questions like: Where is your favorite place on Earth? What colors make you think of the Earth and why?
- What do you enjoy about nature Sten 2: Ask the children to think about recurling and how the

Children will Harn how to identify household products that might be harmful to them. Their family, and the environment through the well-known symbol off Mr. Vik Harmful household products are those that contain corrosins, toxic, ignitable, or reactive ingredients and should not be stored within reach of children. Copies of the Mr. Yuk worksheet can be found in The Quest for Less, page 57.

Note that the Beware of Mr. Yuk worksheet per child ■ Crayons or markers for each child

Activity Steps: Step 1: Put an enlarged picture of Mr. Yuk on the blackboard and

ask children if they have seen it before, and if so, where. Ask what they think Mr. Yuk means. Tell the children that Mr. Yuk helps them learn about which things in the home might be harmful if smallowed, spilled on the skin, splashed in the eyes, or inhaled.

swallowed, spilled on the skin, splashed in the eyes, or inhaled, portion of that Mr. Vala do has an important nationwise told-free belephone number on his lock, leatmost the children to call that belephone number on the size, leatmost the children to call that children why they should stay way from hummel products, explaining how harmful products can burn their skin, hurt their yes, give them a sid stomanizabed is reallowed, or even require a trip to the hospital. Also, talk with the children above what they should be of they find a "yusky" product that has spilled.

Step 2: Distribute crayons, markers, and copies of the Beware of Mr. Yuk worksheat, which shows a house with many commonly found household products. Instruct the children that they need to find the products in the picture with a Mr. Yuk face on them.

How many people in the group recycle?
 What are some examples of items that can be reused

Step 3: Discuss the thoughts and ideas on the blackboard.

In preparation for Step 4, ask the children what they can do to protect the Earth and write some of these ideas on the blackboard.

Step 4: Give each child a piece of construction paper and markers and cravens. If they can write, ask the children to Step 4. (the earth child a piece of construction page and markers and crigans). If they can write, such the children to write a letter to the Earth explaining what they like about 6., what will be sufficient to the children of the Earth or a construction of the Earth or a composite for letter and children of the Earth or a consequent for letter and children of the children of the

Step 5: Hang the children's letters and drawings around the

Step 6: After completing the activity, give each child a Planet Protectors Club globe sticker for their own calendar!

Explain that if they see a Mr. Yuk face on a product, it means that the product could hurt them. Add that other products can also be harmful even if they don't have a Mr. Yuk face on them. They can find out about these and other products by calling the phone numb

Step 3: Ask the children to color only the Mr. Yuk stickers they see on products in the picture. Children can work individually or in groups. Discuss why they colored the items. After the discussion, children can color the entire scene.

Step 4: After completing the activity, give each child a Planet Protectors Club globe sticker for their own calendar!

For More Information

◆ Hazardous Waste Teacher Fact Sheet on page 51 of The Quest

Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Web site: www.mryuk1.com

For a free sheet of Mr. Yuk stickers, Planet Protectors Club Mem-

### September -Reuse: Not Just for the Birds

For this activity, children will learn how to make useful objects from learns—that might ordinarily be thrown away or put in the recycling to be birds will enter the feeder.

- Plastic milk jugs with caps
- Scissors Paint and/or colored markers
- Two 1 floot-long sticks of wood per bird feeder (these can be from a nearby park or even the school grounds) per child
   Birdseed

Activity Steps:

Before You Start: Instruct children to bring in empty and clean
milk jugs from home. You might also want to build the milk jug
bird feeder beforehand and bring it in as an example for the chilt
to follow.

Step 3; Give each child two 1-foot-long places of used. The suep 3: sure each child two, 1-foot-long pieces of wood. These wooden pieces will go through the bird feeder, providing the birds with a pench os it on. Hely the children to trace a cited below each of the large hotes on the milk jug to match the diameter of their sticks. Cut out the tracing and insert the wooden pieces through the new holes.

Step 4: Puncture small holes in the bottom of the jug to allow

Step 5: Using markers and/or paints, have the children decorate

Step 6: Give children birdseed to put in their feeders. They can take the feeders home or hand them outside the school.

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For More Information

Source Reduction Teacher Fact Sheet on page 79 of The Quest for Less

## • October ... Discovering Nature's Packaging

December -

# \*\*materrids Needed: \* One copy of the Find Nature's Packaging worksheet per child \* Crayons or markers

ackaging that protect the part people eat. If possible, bring it xamples of items that have natural packaging (e.g., bananas,

Step 3: Distribute the Find Nature's Packaging worksheet and pass out crayons or markers. Ask the children to circle the items that have natural packaging. Discuss why they circled the items.

Step 4: Ask the children to color the items on the worksheet. Step 5: After completing the activity, give each child a Planet

For More Information re Morniation rce Reduction Teacher Fact Sheet on page 79 of The Quest for Lass
Composting Teacher Fact Sheet on page 141 of
The Quest for Lace

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# November . Take-Home Recycling Kit 🦜

### Materials Needed:

- Construction paper
   Markers and/or paint
   Glue
- Any other arts and crafts supplies available

on the Recycling Facts handouts with the children, pointing out the environmental benefits of recycling.

Step 2: Have each child cut the old cardboard boxes into four 8 % - by 11 inch pieces and glue different colored step 2. Two each can be the controlled to the controlled to the controlled to the controlled to the carbonard Connect each piece of cardboard with tape to form a placed that can stand on a table. Instruct the children to label each cardboard piece with one of the following recyclables: aluminum, glass, plastic, and paper

Children will assemble a take-home neydring let, which can be used by encourage expolling all recognition and the composition of the composition o

Step 4: When the children are finished decorating, ask step 4: When the righter are mission exported are mission exported are mission exported are mission to the three to take them to take the placards home. To encourage families to recycle, ask the children to set the place the three their families between their transition and their families between their recycling set their transitions. Explain how the place the state of their place their state, Explain how the place and send their place their state of their place their places their p

Step 5: After completing the activity, give each child a Planet Protectors Club globe sticker for their own calendar!

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For More Information

• Recycling Teacher Fact Sheet on page 101 of The Quest for Less

• Recycling Facts handout on page 119 of The Quest for Less

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### January . Follow That Bottle

Bottle! handout see The Quest for Less, page 114.

Materials Needed:

That Bottle! worksheet per child

Crayons or markers

Activity Steps:
Step 1: Using the storyline in the Fallow That Bottle' workshee, discuss the Ife of a recycluble item, such as a plustic bottle, after it is placed in the recycling bio. Epilain that Items such as bottles, cars, and newspapers can be made into new products—either the same kind of product or a completely different product—if they are recycled instead of thrown many.

Children will learn about the entire recycling cycle, which includes buying items made with recycled-content materials.

Step 2: Read and then distribute the Follow That Bottle! undoubted and instruct the children to fedow the bottle in the Follow That Stotk worksheet and instruct the children to fedow that the Follow That Stotk worksheet for a copy of the Follow That Stotk worksheet in a new product, is in the children cotor.

Step 3: After talking about the life of the bottle, children

For More Information

# Power(on Teacher Fact Sheet on page 101 of

### Eco-Swap 0 \*Note: This activity is not part of The Quest For Less.

## Materials Needed:

- Construction paper Markers or crayons Scissors

Activity Steps

Step 2: Write down all the children's names on small pieces of paper and place the names in a hat. Ask each child to pick out a name, making sure that they do not pick their own name, and have the children keep the names a secret. Each child will then create and

**O**p ! gy bank which will be given to the child

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Step 3: Before decorating the egg cartons, discuss with the children how reusing the egg cartons as piggy banks will help reduce waste. Refer to the Source Reduction Teacher Fact Sheet for background

Step 4: Have the children decorate the egg cartons with crayons, markers, stickers, and the other arts and crafts supplies that you have provided. Help the children cut slits into the lid of the carton to drop coins into. Sten 5: When all the children are finished, have them sit in a circle

and one by one "swap" their piggy bank to the child whose name they drew from the hat.

For More Information

- Source Reduction Teacher Fact Sheet on page 79 of

# Locker Leftovers Children will apply all that they learned about waste management throughout the year as they clean out their lockers, desks, or other personal spaces at the end of the school year.

- Trash container
   Scale

Step 1: Label a separate bin or box for sach category of resubsite time (e.g., pores and pennis, notebooks and blank paper, reading books). Place these with the recycling and frash containers in a place where all for

recycled ramer than unlown away? Discuss wh types of items children expect to find as they clean out their lockers/desks, and which conta each item will go into.

Step 3: Here children empty the contents of their locken/desks onto the droptoth. Individually, or in small groups, institute the children to son through their terms and place each one into the appropriate contents. If an item cannot be resused or respekt, then it can go into the tash container. Water "one should be a provided in children place their items during this activity to make ourse resussible or rescribed litems do not Step 4: Once the children have finished sorting the contents of their lockers/desks, sort through each container as a group and discuss how the different items can be reused or recycled.

determine how much trash the children threw away compared to how much they kept out of landfills. You can also weigh the entire class and see if they reused/recycled more than their

combined weight, Step 6: Make arrangements for you might also want to arrange a tour of the facility. Items can also be taken to a Goodwill center or donated to another charity.

Step 7: After completing the activity, give each child a Planet Protectors Club globe sticker for

# April ... Handmade Recycled Paper Planters

For this activity, children will make planters from old newspapers and other reusable, recyclable, or compostable items.

- Materials Needed:

  Large stack of newspapers
- Scissors Three to five 2-gallon buckets Water

- Egg bateles
  Magnifying gluss or microscope
  Plant seeds for each child
  Planting soil
  Dinking outs (try to reuse a cup-shaped container instead of
  disposable paper dirisking oups, For example, you could use reusable
  plasts dirinking oups, plastic planter motifs, or small milk containers.)

Step 2: Then discuss how paper is made from trees and how paper can also be made from recycled materials such as old newspapers, used office paper, and even fitness materials like cotton, papyrus, or rags. Then, talk about the environmental benefits of making paper from recycled materials

about the environmenta rather than from trees. Step 1: Corpuser the pull for the plumers, have each child cut up to will be placed in the plumers and the plu

the fibers with the hand beater or with their hands until the paper and water look like mush. Explain how the pulping process breaks down the fibers into a form that can be bunded together again to make recycled paper. I Using the magnifying glass or microscope, have children look closely at the pulp to see the looks would fibers.

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Step 5: Give each child a cup-shaped container. Instruct them to mold the pulp to the inside of the cup, squeezing out as much of the water as possible. The pulp should be ¼- to ½-inch thick on the inside of the cup.

Step 6: Let the pulp dry completely throughout the next three days.

Step 8: Give each child a seed and instruct them to plant it in the recycled cup using the planting soil. Discuss how much sunlight and water their plants need to grow.

Sten 9: Send the children home with their planters when the seedlings sending the nutrients from the paper pulp back into the soil. Children in an urban setting could either plant their seedings in a pot at home, plant them in a local back, or decorate their clanters and donate the seedling to a local.

- Composting Teacher Fact Sheet on page 141 of The Quest for Less

## May . Trash Art

Children will learn how to transform trash into treasure by creating a trash mural from collected pieces of home garbage and images pieces of clean garbage for the activity.

### Materials Needed:

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- aterials Needed:
  One copy of a prient's note for each child.
  For a sample Parent's Mote, see page 61 of
  The Quest for Less
  One tarp or forg cloth
  10 to 12 magazines (with numerous everyday product
- cereal boxes, empty soda cans, used wrapping paper, plastic juice bottles, and bottle caps\*
- Art supplies (enough for the class):

  Three to four sheets of colored construction paper

Also, this activity is for children who are able to handle Activity Steps: Before You Start: Send children home with a parent's note, which

Step 1: Lead children in a discussion of what garbage is and where it came from. Ask them if they know how to identify garbage.

overy a. Log a supple of the most among the climated Bit in a direct and account it. Ask them is spread out their pieces of gratuage on the tarp. Go around the room and ask each child to describe what kind of garbage they trought in. Explore how children know the time was garbage and what its purpose was before it became garbage. Encourage the children to compare and contrast the shapes, colors, and sizes of the garbage on the tarp.

Step 3: Divide the class into pairs and distribute a magazine and scissors to each pair. Tell the children to look for pictures of objects or products that are only used once and then thrown away. Ask the children to cut out as many of these objects as they can. Go around the room to discuss what pictures were chose

step 4: Distribute the rest of the art supplies, instruct children to use their magazine pictures and trash objects to make a collage by gluing them onto the construction paper. Then, help the children tage their construction paper up on the dassroom wall to form a colorful trash mural. Children can also bring their collages home to choose with their familiar.