



REUSE BOX

Contact Information

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Grades

K-1

Objectives

Students will be able to: 1) name useful objects and waste objects; 2) apply understanding of reuse by actually reusing potential waste materials from the classroom.

Method

Students design and use a "reuse box."

Materials

2 large boxes, construction paper, glue, crayons

Vocabulary

Useful, waste, reuse, environment

Procedure

1. Introduce the term USEFUL. If a thing is useful it helps us do something. Useful things often make a job easier to do.
2. Ask students to look around the classroom for useful objects (desk, book, crayons, paper, chalkboard, lights, etc.). Have each student name a useful object and tell why that object is useful; what does the object help us do?
3. Discuss what makes an item WASTE. Waste is something that has no use anymore. Some objects are useful for a long period of time, while others are useful for only a very short time. Ask students to name some waste items. Are they long-lasting or short-lived? When something is no longer useful, we throw it in a trash can or trash bag.
4. Describe how some things that are thrown away as waste could actually be used again, even if it is for a different purpose. We call this REUSE. By reusing something we do not throw it away, and that is good for the ENVIRONMENT.

5. Have students determine what classroom waste items could be reused. Paper that has writing on one side is the biggest reusable item. When students mention paper, ask them how they could reuse it (use the blank side for scrap paper).
6. Tell students that you would like them to create a "paper reuse box" so that paper is only thrown out once it has been used on both sides. Ask them to decide where the paper reuse box should be placed in the room - it must be convenient for everyone to use.
7. As a class, decorate the outside of the box so that it is attractive and will be fun to use. Be sure to write "Paper Reuse Box" on the outside so that nobody mistakes it for trash.
8. When you begin your paper reuse project, appoint a trash monitor each day who will make sure that paper that can be reused is being put into the reuse box and not the trash.
9. Since other things besides paper can be reused, start an odds-and-ends reuse box. Items such as stray pieces of string, packaging peanuts, plastic or paper bags, cans, and other throwaway items can be put in here to be used again. Write "Please Use Me" on the box to encourage students to contribute. Don't let students put in obvious junk items which cannot be used again.

Source: Waste In Place, 1990 Keep America Beautiful, Inc.