

Title: Reuse Greeting

Objective: Create awareness of ways to reduce waste

Time: 10 minutes

Materials Needed: Assortment of items: Empty jelly jar, empty Pringles can, a paper towel roll, cardboard, a peanut butter jar, a shoe box.

Greeting

Theme: Stewardship

Topic: Reuse

Suggested Grade Level: K-5

Indoors or Outdoors: Either

Directions:

1. Students will pass items around the circle as they suggest ways to reuse the item.
2. First student hands jar to second student saying: “*Good morning, Student name would you throw this out for me?*”
3. Second student answers: “*Good Morning, Student name. This isn't trash, this is a _____.*” Student fills in the blank with a new way to use the jar. (e.g. juice glass, vase, container for marble collection, etc.)
4. Continue around the circle until each student has been greeted.
5. Can also be done with other reusable materials such as an empty paper towel roll. (Ways to reuse may include: as a telescope, poster holder, hamster tunnel, megaphone, etc.)

Discussion Questions:

1. Did any of your classmates think of a use for the jar (additional materials) that surprised you? Why?
2. How would reusing something help the environment?
3. Can you think of other ways to reuse items that are often thrown away? Explain how they can be reused.
4. Besides reusing, what other ways can we reduce the amount of trash we create?

Science and Engineering Practice:

8. Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information.

Crosscutting Concepts:

2. Cause and effect: mechanism and explanation.

Disciplinary Core Idea:

Earth and Space Sciences: ESS 3: Earth and human activity.

Background Information:

- **Reduce:** to use less.
- **Reuse:** to put again into service without changing.
- **Recycle:** to put again into service with changing. Recycling breaks down products and makes them into new things.
- **Upcycle:** reuse by creatively repurposing old materials while maintaining some of the original characteristics. For example: Folding newspaper into a flower pot, turning a plastic bottle into a bird feeder, decorating a soup can to become a pencil holder.

Additional Resources:

- Environmental Protection Agency: Recycle City, interactive website www.epa.gov/recyclecity/
- *Michael Recycle* by Ellie Bethel
- *Recycle* by Gail Gibbons
- *Why Should I Recycle* by Jane Green

Correlates with:

Activity - Where Does Our Garbage Go? (p. 79)

Interdisciplinary Lesson - Reuse Trash/Upcycle (p. 110)