



Recycling as an Alternative to Disposal*

Activity E.aaE.aa

GRADE LEVELS: 4-6

OBJECTIVE: To introduce the concept of recycling as an alternative to disposal.

VOCABULARY: recycle

PROCEDURE:

Write the word recycle on the board or a large sheet of paper. Next to it draw a picture of a bicycle wheel. Point out to the children that both end in the word cycle.

A bicycle wheel goes around and around—the word recycle means to use over and over again, or to go around. Show children the recycling symbol on the following page and explain to them that the three arrows represent the three stages involved in recycling materials: collect, remake, and reuse. You might wish to have children practice drawing the symbol.

Point out that when we recycle a product, it does not add to our garbage but goes back around into something new. As the leaves go back into the soil to help a new tree grow, human-made materials can also be broken down and used to make new materials. Old paper can become new paper; old cans and glass become new cans and glass, etc.

Have each child list the possible advantages of recycling. Call on volunteers to read from their lists, and write the major advantages on the board:

- Reduces pollution
- Saves natural resources
- Saves energy
- Saves money
- Saves landfill space

As a result of this activity, the children should become very familiar with the word recycle and use it frequently.

* Adapted from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: Let's Reduce and Recycle: Curriculum for Solid Waste Awareness