



Certain Types of Waste Can Be Reused*

Activity M.p/H.i

GRADE LEVELS: 7 - 12

OBJECTIVE: To introduce students to the idea that certain types of waste can be reused.

VOCABULARY: junkyards, antiques

PROCEDURE:

Have students think about the different kinds of things people throw away. Ask the following questions:

Where did the used items at scrap or junkyards and antique stores come from? What might there be in one person's trash that might be a treasure to others? Relate any personal experiences with such discoveries.

Has anyone in the class sold scrap metals, used appliances, or furniture for money?

Emphasize that many things that we throw away have value and can be reused.

To practice reuse in the classroom, hold a clothing drive or toy collection and donate what you collect to a local Goodwill or Salvation Army.

Ask students to think of other ways in which waste could be used rather than disposed of. Briefly discuss with students the possibility of recycling certain materials such as bottles, plastic, soda cans, and newspapers. Ask the following question:

What can we do with yard wastes such as grass clippings and raked leaves?

Elicit from students the idea that yard wastes can be composted to produce fertilizer that enriches and improves the consistency of poor soils.

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