



Trash Timeline and The Litterbug Family Picnic

Activity: P.dd

GRADE LEVEL: K-3

OBJECTIVE: To emphasize the importance of disposing trash appropriately and recycling materials

MATERIALS:

- The Litterbug Family Narrative
- Trash Timeline
- Signs for each of the following:
 - o Newspaper
 - o Cigarette Butt
 - o Aluminum Can
 - o Glass Bottle
 - o Hard Plastic Container
 - o Banana Peel
 - o Disposable Diaper
 - o 2-4 weeks
 - o 3-5 weeks
 - o 2-5 years
 - o 200-400 years
 - o Forever
 - o 10-20 years
 - o 20-30 years

VOCABULARY: decomposition, compost, reuse, recycle

PROCEDURE:

- Read the “Litterbug Family Narrative” to the students.
- After reading the narrative ask the following questions:
 1. What did special activity did the Litterbug family do? (Answer: Went on a picnic.)
 2. What items did they bring on their picnic? (Answer: Bananas, newspaper, plastic bowl, etc.)
 3. What did they do with their garbage? (Answer: Left all of it at the picnic site.)
 4. What should they have done with...?
 - a. The newspaper? (Answer: Thrown it in the garbage can, brought it home to **recycle**)
 - b. Mr. Litterbug’s cigarette butt? (Answer: Thrown it in the garbage can)
 - c. Lizzie and Lucas’s glass bottle and aluminum can? (Answer: Recycled them.)

- d. The hard plastic container (Tupperware)? (Answer: Taken it home to **reuse**.)
- e. The banana peels? (Answer: Thrown them in the garbage can or taken them home to **compost**.)
- f. Baby Lucy's Diaper? (Answer: Thrown it in the garbage can.)

· Review the TNSWEP Trash Time Line with the students. Ask for volunteers to hold up one of the signs. Have the students hold up the signs and match the item with its **decomposition** time.

· Make a relationship between the student's lives and the decomposition times so the students better understand how long the process takes.
For Example: If the students were 7 years old, explain to them that if they left a plastic Tupperware outside today, they would be as old, or older, than their parents by the time it decomposes!

OPTIONAL EXTENSION: You can add or leave out items from the Trash Timeline to fill the amount of time needed.