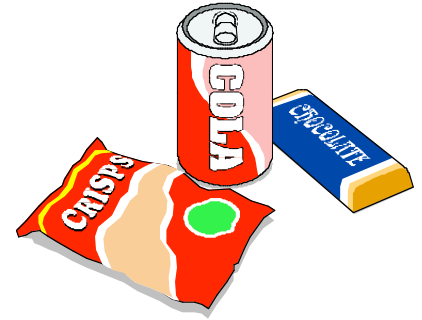


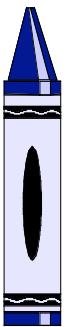
ACTIVITIES FOR "GOOD GARBAGE"

THEME: *Some garbage will break down or decompose over time. That's what Tom Chapin calls "Good Garbage." Other types of trash do not decompose, or take decades to break down - that defines "Bad Garbage." Whenever we buy something, we need to think about which type it is.*

REDUCE: For one week, have each student keep a journal of everything they put in the trash after eating lunch. This will likely include juice boxes, napkins, plastic sandwich bags, plastic spoons, chip bags, candy wrappers, etc. Throw all the (non-food) trash into a covered garbage can, and at the end of the week, weigh the trash bag. According to the New York State Department of Conservation, a child taking a disposable lunch to school will create an average of 67 pounds of trash per school year. Challenge the children to come up with ways to eliminate all the trash from their lunches. They will need to pack the food into reusable containers and refillable drink bottles. Use cloth napkins instead of paper napkins, and metal utensils instead of plastic. Carry a cloth lunch bag instead of a paper bag. Make a list of the ideas, and send the list home to the parents. Implement a No Trash Lunch Day at least once a week. This idea is spreading to schools all across the country. See if you can make it a school-wide event. For more information and ideas, visit www.wastefreelunches.org.



REUSE: Make old broken crayons into new ones! You will need: old crayons, an old pan and some cookie cutters (pick them up at a yard sale!), and aluminum foil. Remove all paper from the crayon bits. Put the crayon pieces in the pan, and melt the crayons over a low heat. Lay out a sheet of aluminum foil, and place the cookie cutters on top. Have an adult pour the melted wax into the cookie cutters to shape them into cool new crayons. Press down on the cookie cutters so the wax doesn't ooze out the bottom. When the wax sets you have brand new crayons!!



RECYCLE: Have the class discuss how unsightly it can be to have trash and litter all over a playground or park. Then take the class on a "litter walk" to collect the trash in the school yard. Separate and recycle the cans, bottles and paper. Have the students write 5 sentences about littering and use some of the litter to create an illustration about the problem. These can be made into posters and displayed on a bulletin board in the school to increase awareness of the problem.

ACTIVITIES FOR "GOOD GARBAGE" (continued)

ART / SCIENCE: Your students will enjoy recycling milk cartons and helping birds too.

For Milk Carton Birdhouses:

- 1) You will need a 1/2 gallon milk carton. As an opening for the birds, cut a one-inch hole in the side of the carton approximately 2 inches from the bottom.
- 2) Cut a strip from the side of another carton for a perch. Fold the strip and staple it to the milk carton below the hole.
- 3) Punch two holes in the top of the carton. Thread string through the holes and tie the carton to a tree branch.



RELATED LITERATURE:

Planet Earth Gets Well / Madeline Kaplan * BookSurge Publishing

George Saves The World by Lunchtime / Jo Readman * Transworld Publishers

Where Does The Garbage Go? / Paul Showers * Harper Collins

Earth Day - Hooray! / Stuart J. Murphy * Harper Collins

50 Simple Things Kids Can Do To Save The Earth / The Earthworks Group *

Andrew & McMeel

