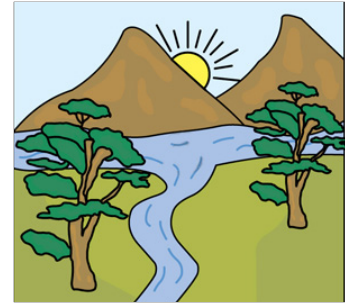


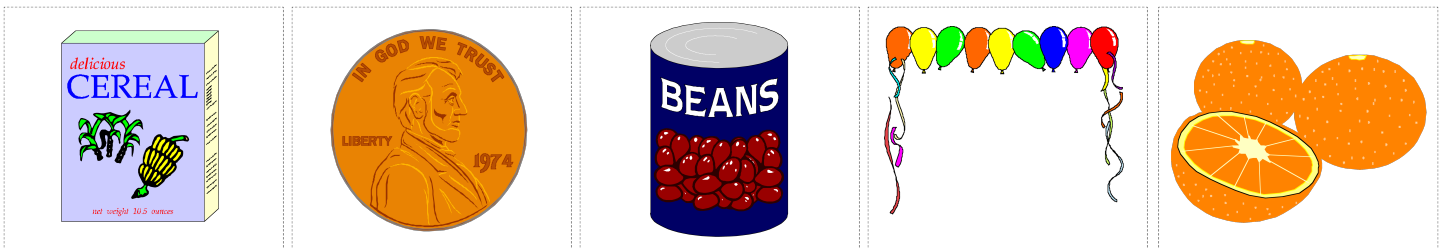
ACTIVITIES FOR "THIS PRETTY PLANET"

THEME: *Appreciation of the natural beauty that surrounds us will make us want to learn how to preserve it.*

ART and DISCUSSION: This Pretty Planet is indeed a beautiful and diverse place. Look around and notice the splendor of our planet. Have each student identify and illustrate 5 natural elements they see in their own town. Is your favorite a snowfall? A sunset? Fall leaves? Seashells? Birds? Rainbows? A lake? A flower? The clouds? A firefly? A mountain? Discuss why taking care of the environment is important to each of our natural treasures.



SCIENCE: Trash is one of the biggest problems facing our environment. It is important to choose items that are earth-friendly. Talk about the difference between biodegradable and recyclable. What food items come packaged naturally? Corn, peanuts, and watermelons are some examples. Have each child cut out 5 photos of objects (not people) from a magazine. Don't tell them what the photos will be used for. Put all the photos face down in a pile.



Taking turns, have the students decide if the object is biodegradable, recyclable, or will sit in a landfill for decades; and explain why.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION: Organize an Earth Friends Club.

Some activities for the club may include:

- 1) Make posters about recycling.
- 2) Start a compost pile.
- 3) Plant a vegetable garden.
- 4) Visit the EPA Environmental Kids Club online at www.epa.gov/kids for information, games and activities.
- 5) Teach other classes what you have learned.



RELATED LITERATURE:

I Can Save the Earth!: One Little Monster Learns to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle / Alison Inches * Little Simon

Easy to Be Green: Simple Activities You Can Do to Save the Earth / Ellie O'Brien * Simon Scribbles