



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

DON'T GET WASTED!

Adapted from Blue Jay Point County Park. Created by D'Nise Hefner, Raleigh, NC
More info here - <http://www.wakegov.com/parks/bluejay/default.htm>

Objectives:

Students will:

- Increase awareness of how they can avoid sending waste to the landfill.
- Interact with each other

Materials:

- Laminated cards with pictures of waste items (eg. Glass bottle, newspaper, etc.)
- Clothespins
- Cards with suggestions for material, both realistic and idealistic to assist facilitator with guided discussion (see second attachment)
- REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, TRASH, and COMPOST signs (see below)

Procedure:

1. Use a clothespin to attach a card to each player's back. Tell the players that each card represents an item that often ends up in a landfill.
2. Explain that each player is expected to find out what kind of waste item is on his or her back.
3. Each player will then ask "yes or no" questions to other players that will help him learn the identity of his waste item. The other players will answer these questions as appropriate. **(Clues can be given if a player gets stuck).**
4. Throughout the room signs saying REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, TRASH, and COMPOST will be posted. After each player has discovered the identity of his waste item, he will go to the sign in which he feels his material belongs (i.e. newspaper = recycle, banana = compost).
5. Then have each participant tell what their material was and other possible ways it could be handled (i.e. newspaper = compost). If the game is being used as an ice breaker, each player could tell something about himself.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the difference between Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling and Compost?



For every single item we use, we have choices!

We can **reduce** (buy less and throw away less).

- **Reduce** by shopping for quality. Buy things that are made to last.
- **Reduce** by not buying things that are made to throw away, such as disposable cameras and flashlights.
- **Reduce** by not eating in restaurants that use disposable dishes.
- **Reduce** by renting or sharing things you seldom use.

We can **reuse** (fix and alter things we already have so that we can continue to use them).

- **Reuse** and save money by shopping at a garage sale or flea market.
- **Reuse** by trading seldom used toys with a friend.
- **Reuse** by saving paper with one blank side and then using it for shopping lists and phone messages.
- **Reuse** an item for a long time by performing proper maintenance.

We can **recycle** (Saving used materials and sending them off to be processed into useful goods).

- **Recycling** uses less energy and causes less pollution than making goods from new materials.
- **Recycling** usually costs less than other ways of getting rid of trash.
- **Recycling** saves forests, petroleum and other resources.

REDUCE

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REUSE

RECYCLE



TRASH

COMPOST