



SAVE THE PLANET

# LESSON PLAN

IT STARTS AT HOME.

Objective: To educate the youth on the importance of taking care of the Earth through teaching them practices of reducing, reusing, and recycling and instilling in them a love for our mother nature

Audience: 1st - 3rd graders

Materials: It Takes Many Hands to Save Our Earth book (PDF version available in lesson plan)  
1-2 hr of class time dependent on the number and type of activities chosen

Procedure:

1. Background class: giving a lesson on Earth, its importance, why we need it to survive, beautiful things about it, and then on how we can help it (reuse, reduce, recycle)
  - emphasis on reducing should be the number one priority, followed by reducing and recycling because students want to NOT generate the waste in the first place (if class is more advanced further lessons or inclusion of landfills and their impacts would be beneficial)
  - introducing the term "single-use plastics" like ziplock bags, plastic water bottles and the harm it can bring to our ecosystem followed by alternatives like reusable water bottles
2. Activity: activities can be chosen up to teachers' convenience, budget, and time availability (list of activities provided in lesson plan)
3. Read book to class.
4. Recreation of book: break off students according to how many kids there are and have them each recreate one page of the book from trash and recyclables found in the classroom to create their own version of the book
5. Distribute flyers to send home to parents.

## Activities:

### 1. It takes our hands to save the Earth Recycling Bin - great tie to recycle lesson

Have all the students in the class handprint their hands on a recycling bin that the teacher has painted the words "It takes our hands to save the Earth" on it to make it unique to them and make them want to recycle more. Keep the recycling bin in class to remind the kids everyday the importance of recycling and the difference they can make.

### 2. Earth Crayons - great tie to reuse lesson

Have students bring in old, broken, unused blue and green crayons and melt it all together to create a crayon that is circular and the colors of earth  
directions and examples can be found: <http://www.sandytoesandpopsicles.com/celebrate/earth-day/homemade-earth-crayons/>

### 3. Class Plant - great tie to the beauty of Earth

Obtain a class plant like a flower or small fruit plant like strawberries or blueberries in order to show students how to take care of a plant and create a chance for students to become interested in horticulture and get excited to see the outcome of their care and effort

### 4. Polluted Water Experiment - great tie to the resources Earth provides for our survival

Mix part of the class' trash and soil into the water to demonstrate polluted water and try to filter and get it to be clear again. This can lead to a perfect discussion on littering and the effects it has, how it can lead into our waterways. For more advanced classes, the discussion of chemicals and other toxins that can be released into our water system can be included.

### 5. Sorting Recyclables Game - great tie to single-use plastics and recycling

Bring in a box of mixed recycling and trash from plastic bottles to paper to glass, etc. and have the class compete to sort out what is trash and what is recyclable. This topic can lead to how the local recycling center works and how single-use plastics like plastic bags are a problem because it gets caught up in their machinery (video opportunity).

Flyers to Parents:

This is to help spread awareness and good practices back home. Additional flyers on living net-zero, living green, and creating less waste can also be included.

# REDUCE

Reducing consumption is the most important out of the three steps. By reducing the amount of intake, the amount of trash produced is therefore also decreased creating less chances of littering and pollution.

# REUSE

Reusing is the second most important step. By reusing an item and using it to its fullest life cycle capacity, it is internally affecting reducing the amount of trash produced because it lowers consumption habits.

# RECYCLE

Recycling is still important in the scale of things because it allows an item that is considered trash to be repurposed for other uses.

**Help educate our children so they will still have a beautiful planet to live on !**