

There Is No Away In Throwaway

Grade Level: 3rd – 6th

Lesson Time: 50 min.

Objectives:

- To teach students the need for waste management.
- To help students understand the meaning of the terms Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

Materials:

- Copy of the poem, “Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout” By: Shel Silverstein.
- “Where trash goes” overhead.
- Make believe newspaper article from the year 2025.
- 1 piece of colored paper and 1 pencil per student.
- A few gift bags with a random item in them.
- 1 “Mining the Landfill” worksheet for each student.

Procedures/Steps:

1. **Anticipatory Set-** Read and discuss the poem, “Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout” by Shel Silverstein. After reading the poem tell students that you’re going to teach them about recycling.
2. Ask the students if they know what happens to garbage after they put it in the garbage can. Write their thoughts on the board. Show students the “Where trash goes” overhead attached, and explain to them what happens to the garbage.
3. Ask the students to predict what it would be like if the city ran out of room for garbage. Comments aren’t necessary at this point...just have them imagine it in their heads. Read them the make believe news story from the year 2025 that is attached.
4. Ask the students what they can do today to keep the news story from coming true. Write their ideas on the board.
5. Introduce the 3 R’s of recycling (Reduce, Recycle and Reuse). Have students make a pyramid out of paper, and on each side of the pyramid list one of the three R’s. Have students write on their pyramid about the R they listed on each side. Use the information attached to teach students about the three R’s.
6. Put random objects into gift bags without the students seeing what they are. Have students get into groups and pick a bag. Have students look at the item in the bag, and discuss different ways to reuse the object. Have students share their objects and ideas with the class.

Assessment: Have students fill out the mining the landfill worksheet.

Reflection: