

What We Use Today Effects What We Have Tomorrow

Adapted from the Utah 3rd Grade Core

Grade Level: Third

Lesson Time: 45 minutes

Objective:

Students will be introduced to the importance of preservation and conservation of natural resources. They will see how littering affects us, and how recycling can help us conserve.

Materials:

Large art paper for each student

Crayons for each student

Just a Dream, by Chris Van Allsburg

Procedures/Steps:

1. Anticipatory set: Ask the students to close their eyes. Have them picture in their minds their favorite outdoor place. Ask them to think about what they see, what they smell, what they hear, what they can touch, and how they feel when they are in that place. Give them plenty of time to get a mental picture and feeling of that place.
2. Pass out the art paper. Have the students draw and color a picture of that place. When they are finished, let each students tell the class about their picture and tell what makes that place so special to them.
3. Take the students on a small walk around the school and school grounds. Ask them to pick up any litter or trash they see on the way and bring it back to the classroom.
4. When you get back, have the students put all of the litter and trash on their pictures. Discuss how this makes them feel. Discuss renewable and nonrenewable resources. Emphasize that what we do today affects the future earth.
5. Split the class into groups to brainstorm ideas on ways we can reuse, recycling, and cut back on the trash we throw away. (If you have computers in class, the students could go to the Recycle City website for ideas. See 3rd grade core for URL.) Come together and talk about some of the things they came up with.
6. To close, read the book Just a Dream, by Chris Van Allsburg.

Assessment:

While students are in their small groups, have the brainstorm and list ten ways they can help recycle, reduce, and reuse waste in their homes, school, and/or community.

Reflection:

Overall, the lesson went very well. There was a problem though; there wasn't a lot of trash outside! That's probably a good thing, but the object lesson didn't work out. Before teaching it again, I would make sure no one had cleaned up outside for a while! You just have to make sure there is enough litter so they all have some to put on their pictures.