

Teaching News Is Elementary

November 20, 2015

Each week, this lesson will share some classroom activity ideas that use the newspaper or other NIE resources. You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some classrooms may be able to use this as a worksheet and others might need to ask and answer the questions in a class discussion.

Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for all of your students.

Materials you will need for this lesson: The Seattle Times e-Edition

Article: “Be a Star Recycler Board Game”

Page: A15

Date: Sunday, November 15, 2015

Pre- Reading Discussion Questions:

Look at the title and the images on page. What do you think it means to be a star recycler? What might you do to recognize America Recycles Day on November 15th? Why is recycling important?

Vocabulary:

Read the following quotes and determine the meaning of the word based on how it's used in the sentence:

“Nationally, U.S. households are recycling and **composting** about 34 percent of their waste. Some communities in Washington State recycle more than double that amount! Good job!”

(changing plant materials into a mixture of leaves and grass that is used to improve soil in a garden)

“According to the EPA, recycling/composting nearly 87 million tons of waste saved more than 1.1 quadrillion Btu of energy. That's the **equivalent** energy consumption of almost 10 million U.S. households in one year.”

(having the same value, use, meaning, etc.)

“The first person to make three **revolutions** on the board wins the game.”

(the actions of moving around something in a path that is similar to a circle)

Journal Writing Prompts:

“Did you know? When you reduce waste and recycle more you help:

- **Prevent pollution that comes from manufacturing new products and using new materials**
- **Conserve energy**
- **Reduce greenhouse gas emissions**
- **Conserve natural resources like water, timber and fossil fuels**
- **Help protect the environment”**

What are other benefits of reducing waste and recycling? What dangers to the planet can come from not reducing waste and recycling? Make notes in your journal of both your good and bad habits.

Discussion Questions:

Review the excerpt and discuss the following questions:

“You recycled five plastic bottles, enough to make a fiber-filled ski jacket. Move ahead one space.

You recycled an aluminum can, which saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours. An extra turn for you!”

If recycling five plastic bottles can make a fiber-lined ski jacket, what do you think can be made from recycling ten plastic bottles? How about 50 or 100? If recycling one aluminum-can save enough energy to run a TV for three hours, what do you think the energy from 50 or 100 aluminum-cans can run?

Small group discussion and activity:

“• Make your game pieces out of different recycled bottle caps or buttons. Select your game piece.

- **Get a pair of dice.**
- **Start/Finish in the same place (closed loop, just like recycling!)**
- **Roll a pair of dice and you’re on your way to learning the benefits of recycling and protecting the planet!”**

Play the board game following the rules above. What did you learn about recycling that you didn’t know before? What facts surprised you? What are the benefits of recycling and protecting the planet? What steps will you take now to be a star recycler?