

Teaching News Is Elementary December 18, 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, colored pens, pencils or crayons and paper or poster board for list, poster or pamphlet project

Article: “Recycling 101: Help Keep the Evergreen State Clean All Season Long: Have Fun with Recycling this Holiday Season”

Pages: NW Traveler, 18

Date: Sunday, December 13, 2015

Pre- Reading Discussion Questions:

Look at the title and images on page 18. How do you think you can have fun with recycling this holiday season? What type of recycling do you do all year round? What type of recycling do you do especially in the holiday season?

Vocabulary:

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

“Consider gifts that are environmentally friendly and **sustainable**.”

(involving methods that do not completely use up or destroy natural resources)

“Consider **repurposing** recycled items such as glass bottles and aluminum cans or **discarded** household items like light bulbs, into unique holiday crafts, gifts and decorations.”

(repurpose: to change (something) so that it can be used for a different purpose or intention)

(discarded: thrown away because something is useless or unwanted)

“Reuse gift tags by **converting** them into holiday cards or decorations.”

(to change (something) into a different form or so that it can be used in a different way)

Journal Writing Prompts:

“Consider gifts that are environmentally friendly and sustainable.”

What does it mean for a gift to be environmentally friendly and sustainable? Make a list of these types of gifts and who they would be good to give to. How do these gifts help the environment? Are these gifts less or more expensive than similar items which are not environmentally friendly and sustainable?

Discussion Questions:

Review the excerpt and discuss the following questions:

“Consider alternative gifts such as charitable donations or volunteerism in the recipient’s name. Consider repurposing recycled items such as glass bottles and aluminum cans or discarded household items like light bulbs, into unique holiday crafts, gifts and decorations.”

What charitable donations or volunteer opportunities would make good gifts? Why? What are other examples of alternative gifts? What type of crafts, gifts, and decorations can you make from recycled and discarded items including glass bottles, aluminum cans, and light bulbs? Make a craft, gift or decoration and share it with the class.

Small group discussion and activity:

“We encourage families to make recycling a part of their holiday tradition. It’s a simple way to make a positive difference in the local environment by diverting items that can be recycled. It can also potentially save your family money by identifying items that can be reused in creative ways.”

Using the suggestions from this article, create a list, poster or pamphlet outlining holiday recycling tips for your family or classroom. Choose which group of people you will create the project for and address the tips to those people. Place your completed project in your home or classroom where others can see it.