

**SAVE THE EARTH: IT'S EVERYONE'S HOME!**  
**LESSON 3: Grades 4-6**  
**CONSERVE IS THE WORD! PASS IT ON!**

**Show Me Standards:**

*Academic Goals:* 1.5, 1.6, 1.8, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.8, 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 4.6 & 4.7

*Knowledge Goals:* Comm. Arts: 1, 4, 6; Science: 4 & 8; Social Studies: 5 & 7

**Objectives:**

1. Students will become aware of choices they are currently making that waste resources and negatively impact the environment.
2. Students will create artwork to gently remind themselves, family members and classmates to make conscious choices that conserve our precious resources.

**Materials:**

- Chalkboard/flipchart
- Marker/chalk
- Earth-friendly Survey (attached)
- 8 ½ x 11 pieces of paper cut into 4 equal squares
- pencils, markers, colored pencils

**Method:**

1. Begin this lesson with the attached survey. You can ask the questions aloud, write them on the board ahead of time or copy the attached sheet onto a transparency and use an overhead projector. Ask them to write their answers on a scrap piece of paper.
2. Afterwards ask the students to count the number of times they answered yes. Most of us probably answered yes to all of the questions. Each and every one of us has done most of these things at some point, probably on a daily basis. It is not that we don't care for the earth, we merely just don't think about it! In today's fast paced world, we often don't think about the consequences of our actions, especially if we don't see the effects.
3. Ask your students: Why might these decisions be poor choices that impact our earth? Answer: they are wasteful, deplete more energy and resources and often times cause more pollution. Introduce the term CONSERVE and explain that it means to use only what is necessary. Conserving electricity and resources reduces pollution. POLLUTION is any chemical or gas that harms our air, water and ozone layer. Pollution destroys the environment and creates harmful results for all plants, animals and humans! Well, now that we are aware of our carelessness and are becoming more environmentally conscious, let's brainstorm alternatives and earth-friendly choices!
4. Discuss and list the earth-friendly alternatives beneath each survey question.

**Call to Action:**

Until this activity, most of us weren't aware of the consequences of our wasteful choices, right? Well, let's educate and gently remind others to think about it. Let's make and post reminders to put up at home and school.

Assign each student one of the earth-friendly ways to conserve our resources that the class came up with. Each student will get a square of paper (see materials above) to draw a simple picture that represents that earth-friendly choice and a short slogan to go with it. They should avoid using too many words or too many details in the pictures. People should be able to just glance at it and be reminded to make the right choice. For example: Draw a picture of a TV with the slogan: Done watching your favorite show?: Turn me off before you go. This can be taped in plain view on the corner of the tv to remind your family to shut it off.

Make copies, laminate and give one of each to each student. Post them in appropriate places in the classroom, around the school and at home.

\*\*\*Point out that since you are using only  $\frac{1}{4}$  of each sheet of paper for each reminder, you are conserving paper but still getting your point across!

**Web sites:** For recommended animal-related web sites visit [www.apamo.org](http://www.apamo.org) and choose "Animal Issues" from the left-side menu, then choose "Links" from the top of the page. Or [click here](#) to launch your browser and link directly to the list.

## Are You Earth-Friendly?

*Directions: Answer Yes or No to each of the following questions.*

Have you ever:

1. thrown away extra food?
2. let the water run while brushing your teeth?
3. started over with a new piece of paper when you made a mistake?
4. left the TV on when you weren't watching it?
5. left the lights on when you weren't in the room?
6. held the fridge door open while deciding what to eat?
7. taken a really long shower?
8. used a bunch of paper towels to clean up a spill or mess?
9. brought your lunch to school in a paper or plastic bag?
10. used a paper cup or plate at home?
11. run the dishwasher or washing machine when it wasn't full?

Teacher's box: Use this worksheet in April in conjunction with your Earth Day lessons and activities.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## When Less Is Kind

When we use less and save more, we are being kind to the Earth. For instance, when we save energy, less energy needs to be produced. Producing some kinds of energy, like electricity, causes pollution and destroys animal homes. On the left are actions taken by people who forgot to be kind. Match up each action with the kind thing to do on the right. Write the letter of the kind action in the blank.

### Someone Forgot to Be Kind by:

1. \_\_\_ throwing recyclables in with all other trash
2. \_\_\_ throwing away a sweater because it is too small
3. \_\_\_ buying batteries that are not rechargeable and other food.
4. \_\_\_ buying pudding snacks in little containers at the grocery store
5. \_\_\_ spraying the dog with flea spray to get rid of fleas
6. \_\_\_ buying bleached white paper towels to use in the kitchen
7. \_\_\_ turning the heat up above 70 during cold weather
8. \_\_\_ buying a new videotape and carrying it home in a plastic bag
9. \_\_\_ buying fruit shipped from another country
10. \_\_\_ writing on only one side of the paper

### Someone Forgot to Be Kind by:

- A. Use rechargeable batteries over and over
- B. Buy a reusable sponge to use in cleaning the kitchen
- C. Buy fruit from a farmer who lives nearby
- D. Wear a sweater until it is too small; then give it to someone who can use it
- E. Borrow a videotape from the library and carry it home in a knapsack
- F. Write on both sides of the paper
- G. Make pudding at home and put it into reusable containers
- H. Groom the dog with a flea comb to get rid of fleas
- I. Keep the heat at 68 or less during cold weather and wear a sweater
- J. Recycle newspapers, aluminum cans, and glass bottles



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