



JONES VALLEY TEACHING FARM

AT-HOME ACTIVITIES

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle! 3rd Grade – 8th Grade

DESCRIPTION and OBJECTIVE:

How can we preserve the natural resources that add so much to our daily lives? It's important to understand the difference between nonrenewable and renewable resources and how we interact with them each day. By using the "Three R's" (reduce, reuse, recycle), you can play a role in conserving the resources we need to survive!

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ⇒ Recycled containers from your house (e.g. milk jug, soda bottle, glass jar, paper egg carton, toilet paper roll, etc.)
- ⇒ Soil
- ⇒ Small rocks
- ⇒ Seeds

LESSON / ACTIVITY:

- ⇒ Begin this activity with a quick discussion. Explain to your student that there are two types of natural resources that we rely upon for daily life:
 - **Renewable resources** are those that can be renewed or replaced in a relatively short time by natural cycles.
 - Some examples are water, plants, and air/wind. Below are some ways in which they are used by humans:
 - Tree → paper, houses
 - Animal and Plants → food, clothes, oils, etc.
 - Wind & Water → used as energy
 - **Nonrenewable resources** are those that cannot be replaced at all or that take a very long time to replace.
 - Some examples are oil, natural gas, coal, and nuclear energy.
 - ⇒ Ask your student to look around your home and identify 2-3 renewable or nonrenewable resources. Below are some examples of the things they could find:



- Books/paper/wooden furniture → trees
 - Cotton clothes, cooking oils, plant based lotions → plants
 - Leather shoes/jackets → animals
 - Stove/oven/lights → uses gas or electricity
- ⇒ Ask your student, “What might happen if we used all of our non-renewable resources? What might happen if we used all of our renewable resources too quickly before they could replenish themselves? Would this affect daily life in a positive or negative way?” (Can be completed as a discussion or a writing prompt)
- Ask your student, “What would happen if we used all of our clean water? Or what might happen if we did not replant as many trees as we cut down?”
- ⇒ Explain to your student that there are ways to ensure that we use our natural resources thoughtfully, specifically by using the “Three R’s!”
- **Reduce:** This means to use less. For example, when you brush your teeth, be sure to turn off the water while you brush! This is a small step that saves so much clean water in the long run.
 - Ask your student, “Can you think of another way we could **reduce** the amount of natural resources we use in our home?” (Turning off lights, using both sides of our paper, etc.)
 - **Reuse:** This means to use again. For example, use reusable plates/glasses/utensils instead of buying paper or Styrofoam plates.
 - Ask your student, “Can you think of another way we could **reuse** things in our home?”
 - **Recycle:** This means to turn something old into something new. For example, certain types of plastic can be sent to a recycling center to be turned into new plastic.
 - If your student is interested in the process of recycling, they can watch [this video](#).
- ⇒ Now it’s time to do your own form of recycling → turning something old from your home into something new!
- First, gather your materials from the list above (soil from your yard, small rocks, an old container to be recycled, seeds).
 - Next, follow the steps listed in the instructional video on our Instagram (@jonesvalleyteachingfarm) or follow the steps from [this video](#).
- ⇒ Once your student has created their own recycled planter, have them complete the following writing prompt: “Why is it important to reduce, reuse, and recycle?”

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- ⇒ Check out the links below to learn more about topics related to this activity!
- [Recycling](#)
 - [Recycle Round Up \(GAME\)](#)

