



Recycle

When students finish working through this section:

1. They will be able to describe several ways to recycle a REAL TREE after the holidays.
2. They will be able to identify and explain the benefits of recycling REAL TREES.
3. They will have located a recycling program in their area.
4. They will have brainstormed multiple ways to recycle a REAL TREE.

The topic of recycling (and biodegradability) is one that can continue all year! Humans are finding new ways to recycle materials that we hadn't recycled before. This section provides information on some of the ways REAL TREES are recycled and asks students to think of their own creative ways!

Possible Discussion Points/Activities:

- Invite a guest speaker to speak to the group about the benefits of recycling (make sure he/she talks about the costs as well).
- Invite students to play detective. Ask them to compile a list of 10 items they use daily that come from recycled materials.
- Provide a list of 20 objects. Ask students to categorize them as biodegradable objects or non-biodegradable objects. Discuss why it is important to be able to identify if a product is biodegradable.
- Ask students to print and complete the *Think Tank* assignment. This can be done as a whole class, in small groups, or as an individual activity. Discuss and share!
- Set aside bulletin board space for students. Have them design and create a bulletin board highlighting the many ways Real Trees are recycled. Have them use only recycled materials in the design!

Words to Know in this Section:

- biodegradable: able to be broken down naturally by bacteria
- erosion: the gradual wearing away of soil (or other substance) by wind or water
- mulch: a protective covering spread on the ground especially to reduce evaporation and control weeds
- recycle: to process something so it can be used again

Link Up! in this Section:

- Earth 911 - <http://www.earth911.org>

Fast Facts in this Section:

- Holiday trees were once used by Chimney Sweeps to clean the soot out of dirty chimneys!



Grades 3-5 | Grades 6-8 | Grades 9-12

Quick Crafts in this Section:

- Soft Suet Ornaments

1 cup peanut butter
1 cup shortening
3 cups cornmeal

Combine ingredients to form a paste. Mold into a cookie cutter.

Thanks to Linda Franz for this cool idea!