



Maggie's Activity Pack

Name _____

Date _____

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Maggie loves to follow the three R's. On a trip to Spain Maggie was excited about the recycling she saw in the small town of Javea. She saw how everyone separated organic material, cardboard, plastic, glass and even yard waste. This town does not have trash trucks driving to each house. Families drive to a small, neighborhood recycling center. Here there are special containers for all their items. Each container is a different color. Funny pictures let you know what to put in each one.



Closer to home in Fairfax County, Virginia, Springhill Elementary has started composting in their cafeteria. They put small containers at the end of each table for their organic trash. They will use the compost for their garden.

Many websites are becoming a popular place to recycle. Do you have a chair you no longer use or even salt and pepper shakers? People put them on the website and other people pick them up. It is easy. You have gotten rid of something you no longer use. You have also saved it from the landfill.

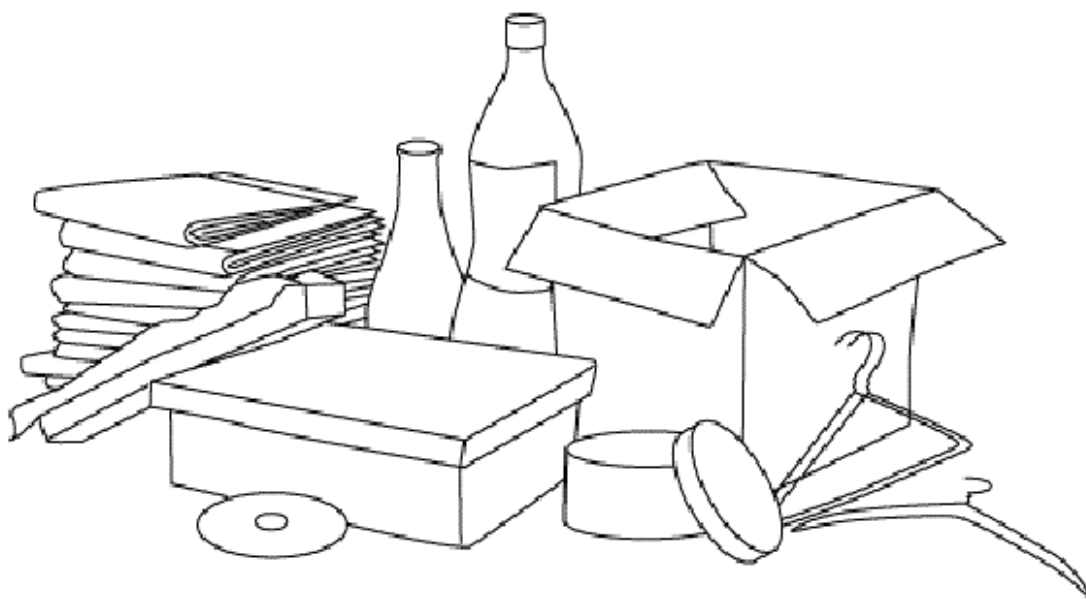
Did you know that some reports say Americans drink almost 50 billion bottles of water a year? Even if we only drink half that many it is still 25 billion bottles. Earth911 reports it takes seven hundred years for a water bottle to begin decomposing. That is a long time! Many sports clubs are asking players to only bring reusable water bottles to the field. This helps keep the fields clean AND cuts down on the number of water bottles we use.

Educate Your Community

Have any sports clubs in your area said no to disposable water bottles? If they haven't you could encourage them to do so. Design a brochure that tells the community about the new "no disposable water bottle law." Hand them out at soccer games, basketball games, baseball games and other local sporting events.

Tips for a good brochure:

- Create a clear message
- Use descriptive words
- Pick colors people can see
- A picture is worth a thousand words



Dear Colleague:

Every now and again our Director of Education, Kathy Hart Smith, lets me step in and talk about something I am really passionate about. One of the benefits of a small group like Maggie's Earth Adventures is that we can be very flexible with our activities. We hope this adds to the timeliness and quality of what we offer.

My family and I have been very lucky to spend many of our summers in Spain. This year I was particularly impressed with the recycling facilities that have been greatly improved upon over the years. There is no curb side pick up but a recycling facility is never more than ten blocks away. They separate glass, plastic, cardboard, yard waste and organic material. Every three or four days I would yell, "let's take out the recycling" and we would always take that opportunity to talk about the value of conservation. As a Director of the National Wildlife Federation one thing I am always asked is, "What can I do?" and "Will it really make a difference?" We here at Maggie's Earth Adventures feel strongly that recycling, composting and other conservation values can and do make a difference. And as you can see from the activity there is much that can be done. Imagine how many bottles would be saved from landfills if players weren't allowed to take disposable sports drinks and water bottles to the field? I am a member of my local "Freecycle" website and I can't tell you how many trips I have saved to the landfill by posting it on the website instead. It's a win-win. Someone takes something you don't want and the environment wins too!

You might want to take the opportunity to discuss with your students what they do in their home and community to reduce, reuse and recycle. You could break your students in to groups and let them decide what kind of brochure they would like to make in an effort to encourage their communities to recycle or implement some other conservation practice. After they have drafted their ideas let them create their brochure on the computer. There are many programs out there that will allow students to make great brochures very easily. This is a good opportunity to encourage students to be concise with their message while using good descriptive vocabulary. Maggie's Earth Adventures would love to see your students' work, so don't hesitate to e-mail us at info@missmaggie.org with your brochure.

Happy teaching,
Mason

Please see our template at www.missmaggie.org/weeklypack for creating a brochure which your students might use for this community-based project.

Goals:

Students will read an article describing various reduce, reuse, and recycle strategies. A community-based recycling center in Spain is described as well as a school-based composting project in Virginia. Students learn there are many ways they can make a difference when it comes to these 3 Rs. As a follow-up, directions are given for a community action project, specifically creating a brochure to generate conservation awareness. This activity correlates with the National Social Studies standards: Culture, People, Places and Environment, and Individuals, Groups, and Institutions and with the National Technology Standard, Technology Problem-Solving and Decision-Making Tools.