



Saving Wild Florida: Do Your Part!

K – 2nd

Learning Objectives: Students will be able to discuss the importance of the three “R”s – reduce, reuse, recycle. They will be able to identify ways to reuse materials in their daily lives and why it’s important.

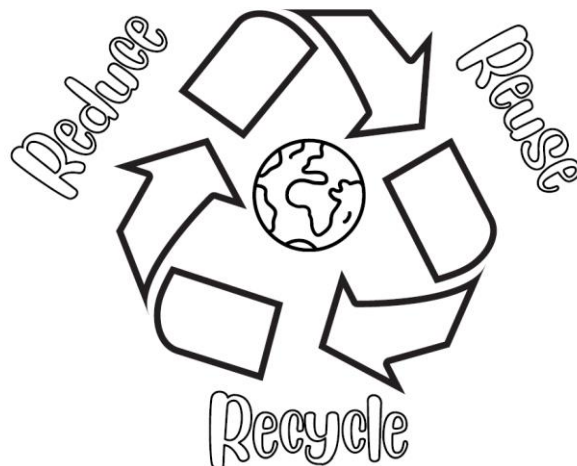
Background: We all use a variety of items every single day. Take a look around the classroom; you see pencils, desks, backpacks, computers – all sorts of things. Eventually, we can’t use these items anymore, and we throw them away. There are over 7 billion people on the planet. If you think about all of the trash you generate in a day and take into consideration all of the other people on the Earth, that’s a lot of trash.

The three Rs – reduce, reuse, recycle – serve as guidelines to help us lessen our impact on the planet. These three Rs help us to reduce the amount of trash we create, reuse items before we throw them away, and recycle what we can. These small actions do make a difference, and every little change counts.

We can reduce our consumption by buying only what we need, rather than buying everything that we want. Additionally, we can reuse items in a new way, instead of just throwing them away. Sometimes we can’t reduce or reuse our consumption, so that’s where we introduce the third R – recycle. When we have to use nonrenewable resources, like plastic, we can recycle the item when we’re done, instead of throwing it away.

- **Additional Information:** [Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Video \(3:39\)](#)

By making these simple changes, we can ensure that these resources are here for a long time, not only for us, but for plants and animals as well!



Activity 1: Trash or Treasure?

Preparation:

- Print Trash or Treasure worksheet (page 4).
- Print Reduce, Reuse, Recycle coloring sheet (page 6).

Instructions:

- Pass out Trash or Treasure worksheet.
 - Ask students to think about other items they throw away often. How can we reuse these items in different ways?
 - Students should write their answers into the worksheet.
- Wrap-Up: Pass out Reduce, Reuse, Recycling coloring sheet and play [The Three Rs Song \(2:54\)](#) while the students are coloring.
- Continue to Activity 2 to put reuse into action.

Activity 2: Something Old to Something New

Upcycled Rain Stick Craft Activity:



Photo Credit: theimaginationtree.com

Supplies:

- Paper towel tubes
- Dried rice or beans
- Pattern Duct tape
- Coloring supplies

Instructions:

- Ask students to tape one end of paper towel tube shut and fill halfway with rice or dried beans. Once complete, tape the other end shut.
- Students can decorate the outside of their rain stick with duct tape or coloring supplies.

Upcycled Binocular Craft Activity:



Supplies:

- Paper towel tubes
- Glue
- Yarn
- Coloring Supplies
- Hole puncher
- Scissors

Instructions:

- Cut paper towel tube in half and glue pieces together. Punch one hole on each tube, at the same end, and thread yarn through to create binocular strap.
- Students can decorate their binoculars with coloring supplies.
- Optional: Take students outside and have them explore with their new binoculars!

Wrap-Up: Discuss how their reuse of these supplies to make rain sticks and binoculars can help. These items would have been thrown away, but now they have been reused for a different purpose keeping them out of the trash.

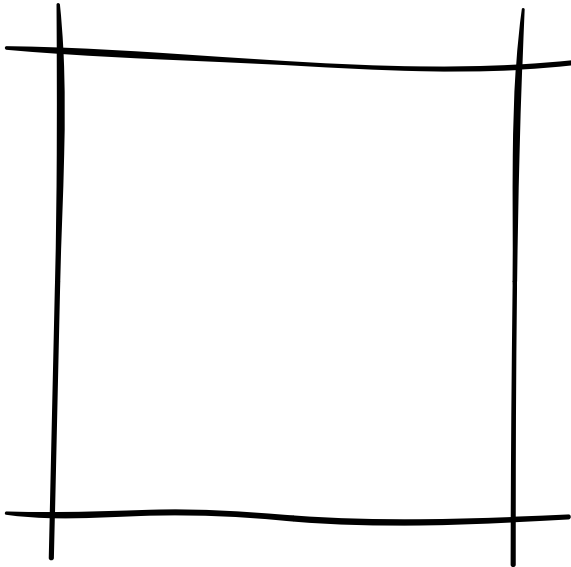
Name: _____

TRASH OR TREASURE?

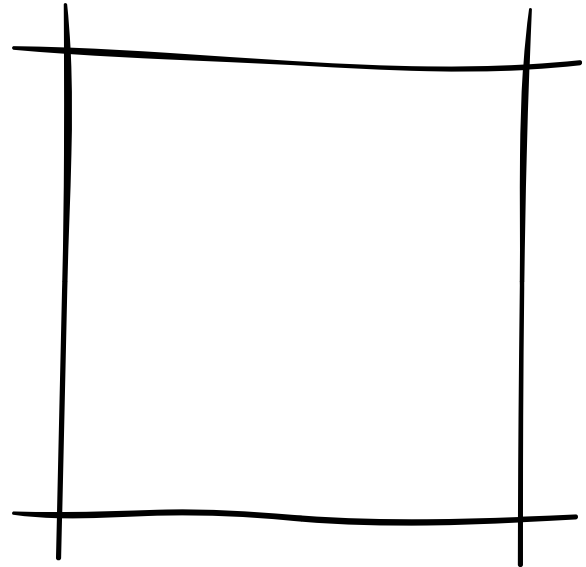
Think about something you throw away often. How else can you use it?

ITEM: _____

USE 1:



USE 2:





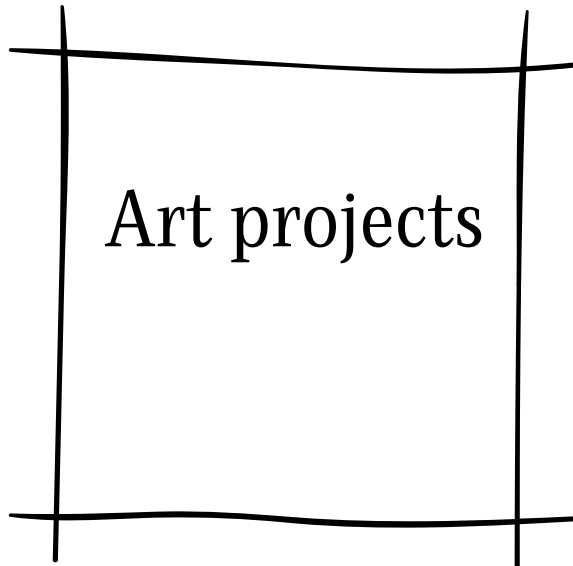
EXAMPLE

TRASH OR TREASURE?

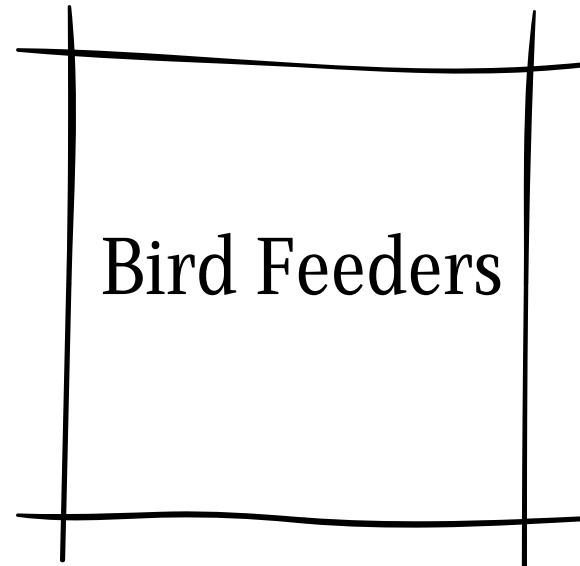
Think about something you throw away often. How else can you use it?

ITEM: Toilet Paper Tube

USE 1:

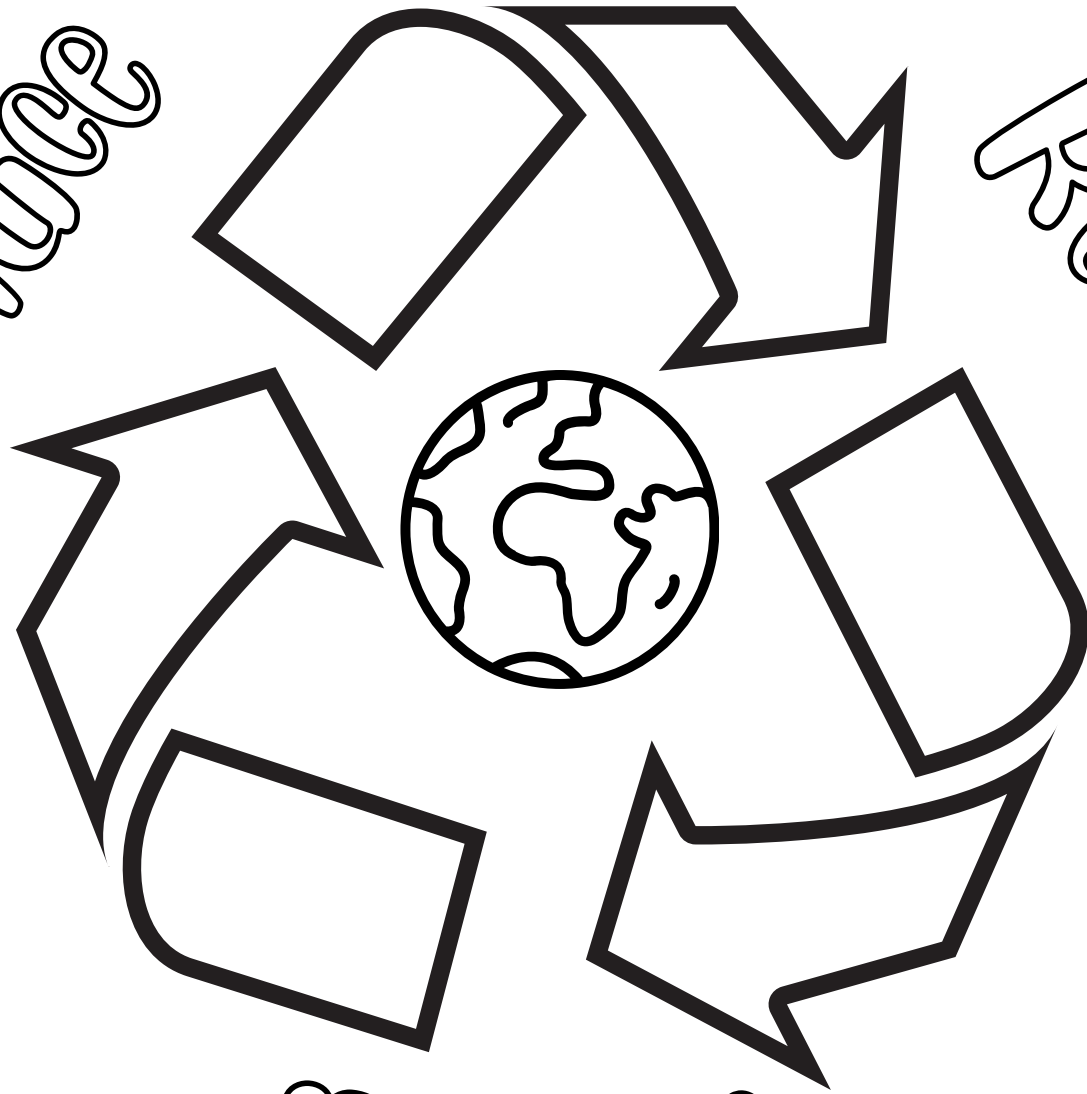


USE 2:



Reduce

Reuse



Recycle

