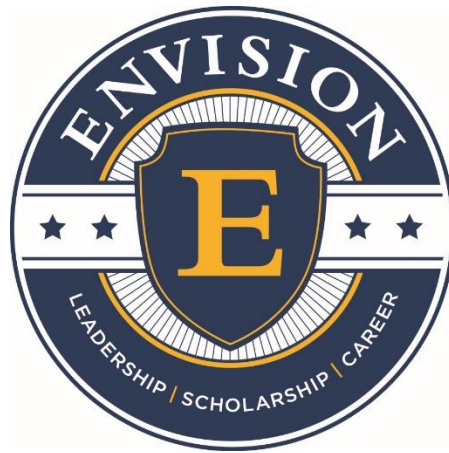


Educator Guide: Earth Day



Earth Day Educator Guide

Overview: Earth Day, each year in April, is set aside as a day to appreciate the earth and build awareness on ways to protect the environment. Now more than ever, students know the importance of recycling, reusing, planting, cleaning, etc. Earth Day presents a number of issues that are important to teach students to instill earth-friendly habits early. The goal of this 60 minute lesson is to spark creative ideas in students for reusing everyday products, spur interest in using recycled products and market new products of their own.

Envision Platform Alignment:

- Envision Education Platform
 - Dimension 1: Core Skills – Standard 1B, Collaboration; 1C, Creativity & Innovation

Expected Outcomes & Desired Results:

1. Students will create ideas for other uses for everyday objects.
2. Students will invent a new product and market their invention.
3. Students will discuss recycling.
4. Students will collaborate with their peers to

Materials and Advanced Preparation:

- Easel paper
- Markers
- At least 3 materials to be reused for inspiration (paper plate, pot, a sock, etc.)
- Reused material objects if available such as a quilt

Allotted Time	Description
20 minutes	Transform an object
40 minutes	Invent new product & Market Invention

Facilitating the Activity:

1. Transform an Object

20 minutes

- Introduce the lesson on Earth Day by explaining to students that today is Earth Day, a day set aside once a year to focus on taking care of the earth and our environment. Students are probably familiar with the 3 Rs, Reuse, Reduce and Recycle. One of the most effective ways to reduce a negative impact on the environment is reusing products instead of throwing an old item away, then buying a new one. This activity is meant to get students thinking about the concept of reusing everyday products to give them a second life and to spark ideas for inventing new products.
- Before students arrive, set up everyday objects like a paper plate, a pot, a sock, etc. in front of the classroom. These can be spread out on a table or in a bag so only one object is revealed at a time.

- Introduce the activity by asking students:
 - *What does it mean to reuse?*
 - *How can you reuse objects?*
 - *Have you ever reused any objects to make something new?*

- If you have objects that have been made from used materials, this would be a good time to show these to the students and introduce the idea that reusing is not a new trend, but has been happening for a long time.
 - A good item to display and talk about is a quilt. Quilts reuse old clothing for a new purpose, a blanket. Quilts also carry sentimental value and are often passed down generation to generation in a family.
 - Also, mention tires can be recycled as playground equipment or for the soles of shoes.
 - Used computer paper can be cut and bound to make scrap paper pads.
 - Styrofoam coffee cups can be bound together at the bottom with white Christmas tree lights and hung up like a lamp.
 - An old record can be made into a bowl by placing it over a metal mixing bowl and “baking” it in the oven.

With innovation, students can brainstorm and create new products of their own.

- Introduce an object to the class. Start with the pot. Ask students what other uses they may have for a pot. Examples are: a pot can be used as a hat, a drum, a mirror, etc
- Form groups of three by “counting off” students with the words “Reuse” “Reduce” “Recycle”.
- Once students are in groups, give each group an object to transform. Offer the groups 5 minutes to come up with 3 different uses for their products. Inform the groups that with such little time, they should quickly brainstorm as many ideas as they can think of (Remember: In brainstorming, there is no bad idea.). Then, the groups should choose their three favorite ideas to share with the rest of the class.
- After 5 minutes, student groups will present their 3 “new” products. This presentation should be merely an explanation of the new product.
- Conclude the activity by thanking students for their contributions and responses. Congratulate them for creating interesting end products that had a first life, then a recycled life.

2. Invent a Product

40 minutes

Have students sit in a circle formation. (Optional)

- Facilitate a brief group discussion about students’ observations of the previous activity.
 - Potential questions for discussion:
 - *Why is it important to recycle or reuse products? (Answers: Good for economy, reduces waste, good for environment, preserves landfill space, etc.)*
 - *What are some ways you have, or could start reusing products in your own life?*

Tell students one of the objectives of this lesson is to invent a new product from an old. Have them break into groups of 5 students. Then, they will tell others how the item will be used by “marketing” the product to their classmates. They will either:

- choose one of the products they brainstormed
- or create a new product

After creating this product, students will market the product to the rest of the class. They will need the following in their presentation to the class.

- a catchy name for the product
- a slogan or jingle – a one line selling point for the product (Keep your audience in mind. What will catch attention and give the audience a snapshot of your product?)
- a poster – Make this a billboard style with your slogan and picture of your product.

- Distribute materials (flipchart paper, markers, construction paper, glue, etc.). Tell students they will have 20 minutes to invent and create a marketing plan for their product.
- After students have created their products and developed their marketing plans, they will present these to the class. (20 minutes)
- Groups will present their products to the class. The groups will show how the items will be used. Encourage groups to “sell” the products to the group!
- Thank students for their presentations of their “new” products.
- *Much of what we have done in class today is being done in the marketplace. Items that have had a first life are being reconstructed into completely different products to give those items a second life. Things are being reused instead of thrown away. Then, these new products are marketed and sold.*
- Thank students for their participation in the discussions. Encourage them to consider the ideas they generated to seek ways to reuse every day products and look for products made from recycled materials.

Additional activity to the lesson, students can create their idea using materials brought from home or around school.