Blue Sleuth Activities

Activity #1: Know Your 3Rs!
Vocabulary Lesson and Secret Code

Overview:
Students define important recycling vocabulary and decode a secret message.

Arizona Department of Education Academic Standards:
Please refer to the Arizona Department of Academic Standards section for the ADE standards addressed by this lesson.

Objectives:
Students will be able to:
➡ define and use recycling vocabulary
➡ state that almost half of what we put in our landfill could be reused or recycled
➡ identify four alternatives to trash disposal: reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost

You will need:
• one photocopy of each of the six recycling vocabulary images
• one photocopy of Know Your 3Rs! Vocabulary (cut into strips as indicated)
• one photocopy for each student of Know Your 3Rs! Secret Code

Directions: (estimated time 60 minutes)
1. Know Your 3Rs! Vocabulary
   • Tell students that this lesson will prepare them for a recycling presentation called Too Good to Throw Away!.
   • Hand out the recycling vocabulary images to six student volunteers.
   • Hand out the Know Your 3Rs! Vocabulary word strips to six other student volunteers. (If the reading level of the definitions is too advanced for your students, skip this step and read/explain the vocabulary definitions yourself.)
   • Have the first six students hold up their images while the other six students read their words and definitions out loud.
   • Have all students think of their own examples for each word and its definition. Share some as time allows.

2. Create a bulletin board.
   • Create a bulletin board about recycling using the vocabulary, vocabulary images, and additional information/imagery located in the Teacher Background Information, as well as from the Internet.

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(continued)

3. Know Your 3Rs! Secret Code
   - Hand out *Know Your 3Rs! Secret Code* to each student. Students should use the Secret Code Box to decipher the hidden message.

**Extension Idea:**
   - Have students create their own secret codes and hidden messages related to the *Know Your 3Rs! Vocabulary* words.
natural resources
Landfill
reduce
reuse
Too Good To Throw Away!

recycle
compost
Know Your 3Rs! Vocabulary

**Note to Teachers:** Copy on card stock if available and cut along dotted lines.

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**Natural Resources** (*noun*): Raw materials and energy that we get from nature; land, water, trees, sunshine and minerals. Everything comes from natural resources. For Example, this piece of paper came from a tree.

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**Landfill** (*noun*): The place where trash is taken and buried in a special pit lined in plastic. Almost half of the things that end up there could have been reused, composted, or recycled.

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**Reduce** (*verb*): To buy or use fewer items or to throw away less trash. For example, you can use a cloth bag repeatedly instead of a plastic bag to carry home groceries.

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**Reuse** (*verb*): To save something and use it over and over again for the same purpose or another purpose. For example, you could make a toy rocket our of old paper towel rolls.

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**Recycle** (*verb*): To make something used into something new. When you run out of things to do with your cans and newspapers, you can recycle them so they go to companies that make new things from them. A recycled newspaper can be made into another newspaper or comic book.

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**Compost** (*verb/noun*): To compost is a way to recycle food scraps and yard waste. You can compost things that were once part of a living plant. Banana peels, coffee grinds, grass clippings and leaves can all go into a compost pile to eventually turn into rich soil.