

Once More With Feeling



Topic: Waste
Grade: 6
Duration: 4 x 45 minutes

Students will create a television commercial that focuses on reusing materials in a creative way. The items that are brought in for the activity can be used at a School Rummage Sale later in the year or donated to local community organizations.

Curriculum Expectations

- 6s93: Make use of the physical and aesthetic properties of natural and manufactured materials when designing a product
- 6s94: Show awareness of the effect on a design of the unavailability of specific materials
- 6s95: Write a plan outlining the different materials and processes involved in producing a product
- 6s96: Identify various criteria for selecting a product
- 6e1: Communicate ideas and information for a variety of purposes (to inform, to persuade, to explain) and to specific audiences
- 6e6: Produce media texts using writing and materials from other media
- 6e22: Integrate media materials (e.g., computer graphics) into their writing to enhance their message
- 6e47: Make reports, describe and explain a course of action, and follow instructions
- 6e48: Ask and answer questions to obtain and clarify information
- 6e60: Use tone of voice and gestures to enhance the message and help convince or persuade listeners in conversations, discussions, or presentations
- 6e61: Use constructive strategies in small-group discussions (e.g., invite other group members to contribute; ask questions to clarify a point; negotiate to find a basis for agreement)
- 6e62: Follow up on others' ideas, and recognize the validity of different points of view in group discussions or problem-solving activities
- 6e63: Identify questionable strategies (e.g., exaggerated claims, one-sided presentation of information) presenters use to influence an audience
- 6e66: Create a variety of media works
- 6m107: Use computer applications to examine data in a variety of ways

Background Information

Most families have items of clothing, furniture and other household goods that are no longer used by members of the family. These items can be reused, recycled or donated to community organizations. Most organizations will take clean clothes that are in good condition, small appliances that are in working order and furniture items. This is an alternative to putting these kinds of items in the recycling containers.

Accountability

Students will appreciate the value of reusing materials and putting them back into the community to future use.

Teacher Notes

1. Use this scenario approach:

Over the weekend, you and your family were doing spring-cleaning. You came across a great many articles of clothes that nobody had worn for a few years. You also discovered several kettles and household articles that your older sister had when she was away at school. They are not being used and are just sitting in your basement.

2. Send a letter home explaining what you are planning on doing and ask parents to help students find items that can be brought in to class for this activity. Encourage parents to help students determine if the items are safe, clean and appropriate for the event.
3. Ask students to collect materials from home that are no longer being used such as old toys, clothes that are too small, old small appliances. At the end of the activity, these will be donated to organizations within the community or used in a School Rummage Sale.
4. Sort the materials according to "reusable" value. For example, clothes in good condition but are just too small for everyone in the family would have a high value. Broken toys that cannot be fixed would have a much lower value. Place a "value" sticker on each item. Create a database to record this information.
5. Working in teams, select a predetermined number of items from each grouping of products. Get students to look at the items in new ways. They can add value to their items by modifying them as well. For example, an old container can become a plant pot, a bird feeder or a container for children's toys with a little creativity and paint.
6. Create a television commercial that emphasized the value of reusing materials. Videotape the commercials and show them at a school assembly. Create a display and have the commercials running beside the display in the foyer of the school. The commercials can include an item on how others can donate to the cause.
7. Contact community organizations such as Goodwill, the Salvation Army and other charitable organizations in your community. Have a speaker come to the class to talk to students about the type of material they collect and ask them to explain how the items are used in the local community.
8. These materials can also be used if the school is planning a Rummage Sale. The students can place a monetary value on their "new" items based on the amount of work put into the product.

Home Extension

1. Work with the home to collect these materials.
2. Ask family members to donate time to the activity and work on the Rummage Sale.

Lesson Comments

Teachers, feel free to add in your own comments for this lesson.