Recycled Plants

Grades: K - 6
Time: 15 - 30 mins.

Lesson summary:
Create your own plants at home while using items around the house! If you don’t have any seeds or soil, this is a perfect activity!

What’s the big idea?
• How can we upcycle items in our home?

Outcomes or purpose:
• Students will learn about the three R’s (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)
• Students will learn how to alter something for a different purpose
• Students will demonstrate their learning about plant parts

Teacher background:
The three R’s are reduce, reuse, recycle. Talk about what each of those terms mean.

Reduce
Reduce the amount you throw out by buying less.

Reuse
Find a new way to use something so that you don’t have to throw it out, like using jars for containers.

Recycle
Use garbage to remake new goods that can be sold again. Things that you put into your blue bin are made into new products, like tin cans, glass bottles, paper and plastics.

Materials needed:
• A selection of recyclables that you have around the house (egg cartons, boxes, cans, bottles, lids, plastic bags, scrap paper, bottle caps, leftover yarn etc.)
• Scissors
• Glue
• Markers
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Step by step instructions:

1. Review the basic plants parts: flower, leaf, stem, roots, fruit, seeds and leaves.
2. Place the recyclables on a table. Plan out which items the students can be used for plant parts. Prepare all your parts of your plant.
3. Make sure the children understand all of the parts they have to have on their plant.
4. Glue those pieces together to make your very own plant!

Discussion questions

- What is your plant name and can you use the plant parts for?
- What ways do you use the three R’s everyday?

Expand the learning:

- What are some other ways to use the three R’s?
- How can you help the environment in other ways?