



### Utah Core Objectives

Examine important aspects of community and culture.

### Learning Objectives

By the end of this activity students will be acquainted with:

- recycling
- concept of Earth as our home and how/why we should take care of the Earth
- selected recyclables

### Materials Needed

- Think Earth VHS
- VHS Player
- Earth banner
- Earth Puzzle
- Recyclables for sorting (optional)
- E-waste samples (optional)
- Composting cards (optional)
- Selected activity pages in the Environmental Fun Book from Salt Lake County

### Time

20-30 minutes

Adjust activities based on the age of the children and the time available.

For more information contact:

**Recycle Utah**  
1951 Woodbine Way  
PO Box 682998  
Park City, UT. 84068  
(435) 649-9698  
[www.recycleutah.org](http://www.recycleutah.org)

## THINK EARTH

Grades K-1

### Preparation

Become familiar with the pictures depicted on the back of the Earth Puzzle pieces and the material on pages 2-3.

- Composting your food
- Good Wood Project: lamps
- Good Wood Project: Washing machines Dryers
- Good Wood Project: Windows
- Good Wood Project: Sinks
- CDs
- All plastics
- Aluminum & tin cans
- Trees – Natural Resource
- Newspapers
- Cardboard Paperboard
- Newspapers
- Mail Envelopes, magazines, newspapers
- Paper white colored
- Tires
- Batteries
- E waste
- Water: Keep It Clean
- Conservation
- Car oil
- Cell Phones
- Glass – All colors

Set up and test the video player.

### Activities

1. Show the Earth flag and make the connection between the picture and children's activities. "This is our home. What I do with my hands makes a difference to the Earth."
2. Show the movie "Think Earth," a cartoon that tells children why it's important to recycle.
3. Have children put the Earth Puzzle together. The pieces are numbered. For young children, it works best if you give each child a piece to hold and then call the numbers so each child has a turn. For older children, don't give any hints. Have them work on the puzzle as a group.
4. Your debrief of the activity will be geared to the age of the children. Essential questions and concepts for older children are described on the next page.
5. Have younger children sort material into baskets or distribute worksheets for in-class use or as leave behinds.



### Additional Activities

Read *The Wartville Wizard* or shorter littering story and discuss littering

Selected activity pages in the Environmental Fun Book from Salt Lake County

### Recycle Utah Kit:

ABC cards and matching game, selected books including

Read *The Lorax* and *The Wartville Wizard*, *Dinosaurs to the Rescue: A Guide to Protecting Our Planet*, *Where Does the Garbage Go?*

## THINK EARTH

- Continued -

**Ask children to make a big circle around their puzzle.**

*Essential questions:*

- What did it take to put this together? Was it easy – did you go as fast as you thought it would? Would this puzzle have come together if some of you were not able to give up your tiles? If you held onto them?

*Observations:*

- The Earth puzzle also shows a flower and drops of water and a tree – that tree gives off oxygen that we breathe and the tree roots keep the soil in the ground. And the sun without which there wouldn't be any life.

*Learning points for older children.*

- To make this puzzle, you had to communicate with each other, cooperate, teamwork, but above all you needed to respect each other. What your hands did putting this together and what your hands do to this planet really, really matters. Whether it's good, bad or ugly it really matters. Hopefully, it's something good.
- The Earth is your home. If you invite me to your house for dinner and I don't behave very well, my feet are on the table and I leave food all over – would you invite me back? No. Because I didn't show any respect. Are we showing respect for the Earth? It could use our help.

**Ask older children to turn the puzzle pieces over and discuss how to take care of the Earth.**

Ask for two volunteers and direct them to pick up any puzzle piece that has anything to do with plastic. Who has a composter at home? That's your tile.

Who does a lot of reading? Pick up any puzzle piece that has to do with paper.

Direct each child to pick up a puzzle piece.

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## THINK EARTH

- Continued -

**Conservation.** What does that mean? To save something so that whoever comes after us has something left. What should we conserve? Water. Discuss sprinkler systems. Native plants 67% of the water we use in Utah is used for outdoor irrigation. Without water we can't live. We need to keep it clean.

There's another puzzle piece about **water**. Who has a pet, cat dog or other? What do they all have in common? They all poop. The Earth needs you to collect their poop. It is not beneficial to leave the dog poop at the side of streams or even on the lawn because rainwater will wash it down the storm drain or the streams and it will get in our water supply. Keep water clean is extremely important.

There is another tile that has to do with keeping water clean. **Oil** -- who's got that? Every motor needs oil. **Oil** needs to be changed to keep the motor healthy. Oil needs to be changed properly. Never dump oil on top of the driveway or in your soil. So if you have parents who change their oil, make sure they capture every little drop and not in the water.

What is **e-waste**? *Show samples of ewaste.* Ipods, computers, game boys, TV, portable clocks DVDs, cameras, video cameras, computer. What do all these things have in common. What do you do with a broken TV? A broken ipod. A: No e waste ever goes in your garbage can. If you can fix it, or give it to someone to use – re-use – way better. If not, bring it to your recycling center. E-waste is dangerous for your body. Don't lick it, bite it.

Who has the **battery** tile? A: Batteries are hazardous to your health because of acid inside. Take them to Recycle Utah so they can be disposed of properly.

Who has tiles that show things that are to be recycled? Glass. How many colors of glass? Four major colors. Green, brown, clear, blue.

Who has the **tire** tile? How many tires per car? How many cars? There are a lot of tires. Take them to a tire store. Tires are indestructible and wiggle in the landfill – come back up.

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## THINK EARTH

- Continued -

Who has **paper**? What's the most important tree? Trees. Whose birthday is coming up next? Would you give yourself a present and plant a tree? Plant a tree for Mother's Day or Father's day. Plant a something that stays behind.

Who's got metal? **Aluminum cans**. What do we do with aluminum cans? Crush it. Child demonstrates. Basic material in aluminum cans is bauxite. It's an example of a non-renewable natural resource. What does that mean? Validate: Non-renewable means we use it up and don't have any more. There is a finite amount. But when it's recycled, we can crush it up and re-use it as other aluminum cans.

Most of the aluminum cans in this country do not get recycled because people do not recycle them. The raw material which must be mined is bauxite. We're going to run out of it someday. It's important that you not think of this as just an aluminum can. This is a piece of the next space shuttle. Think of this aluminum can as a piece of the next school bus, your car, your airplane. When you see them crushed on the side of the road, what do you do? A: Pick them up.

**Plastics**. What is plastic made from? A: Oil. Plastic is a petroleum byproduct and petroleum comes from oil. Are we running out of oil? Can we make more oil? An example of a non-renewable natural resource. What shall we do with it. Shred it, add color and make other things out of it. Plastic doesn't break, doesn't fade, doesn't change colors, doesn't melt. It sits there for thousands of years. This is your garbage turned into something re-usable again. It's all about recycling, re-using for something else.

**Construction thrift store**. Who has items for the Good Wood project? There's no need to throw these away when other people can use them. Reuse is better than recycling.

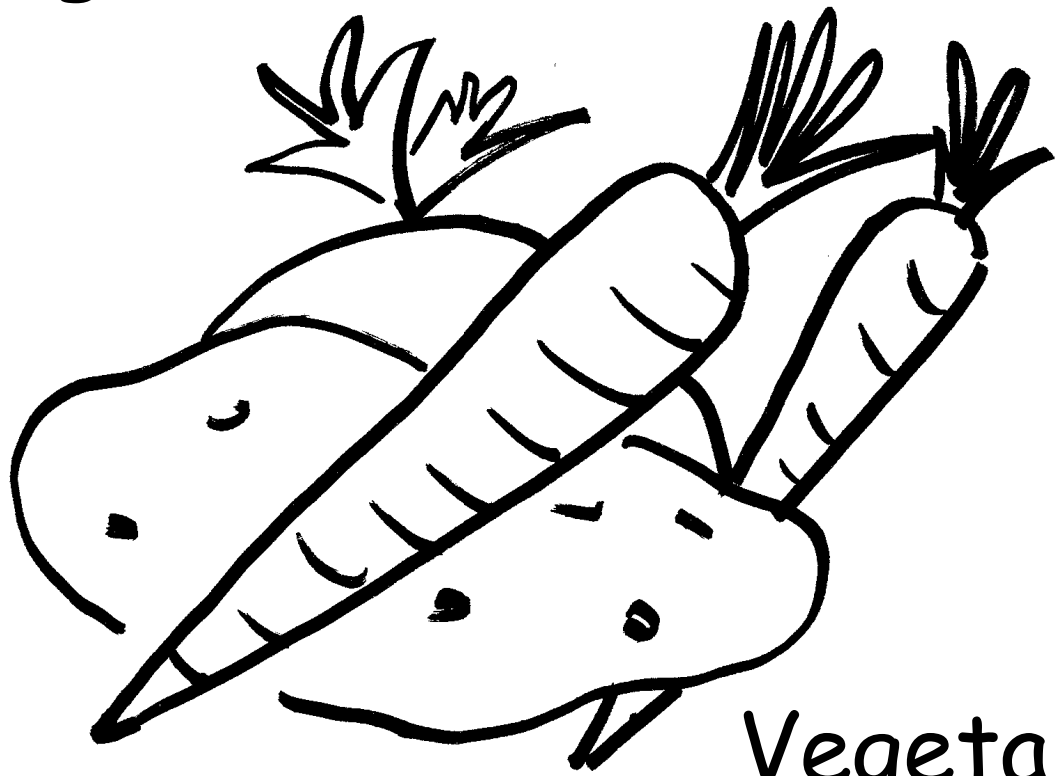
**Composter** – What is compost? A: A container with layers of vegetable matter and leaves and lawn clippings. Over time it becomes healthy soil for your garden. There is no waste in nature. Things that decompose turn into food for other living things—plants, animals and insects. So tell your parents to compost.

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# Composter



# Nitrogen-rich Materials



Vegetables



Grass Clippings

Leaves

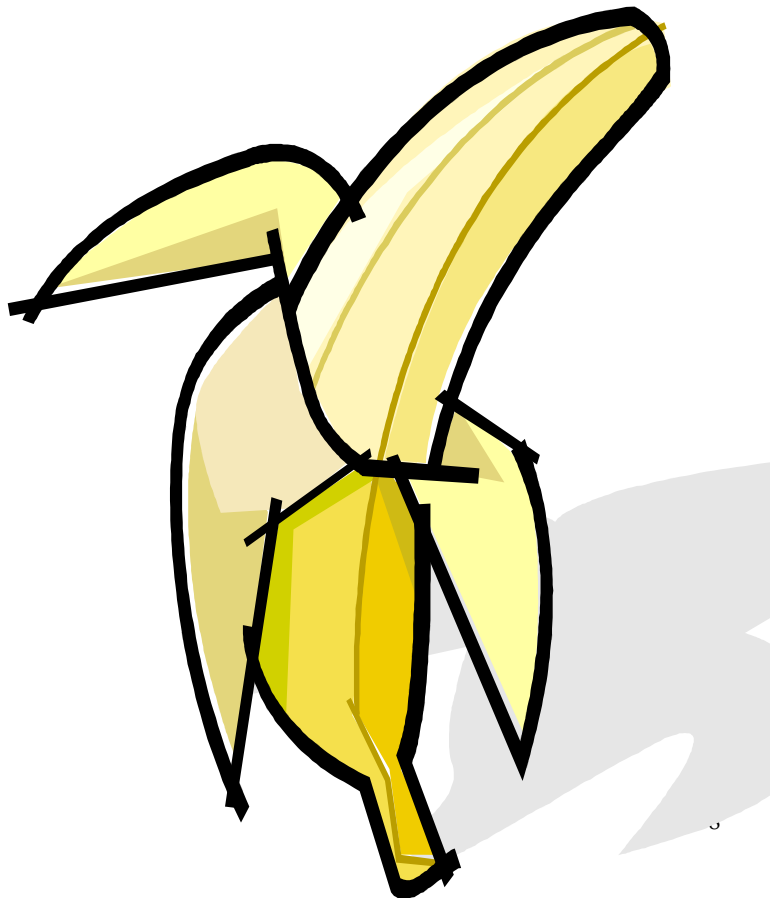


Yard Waste

# Orange Peels



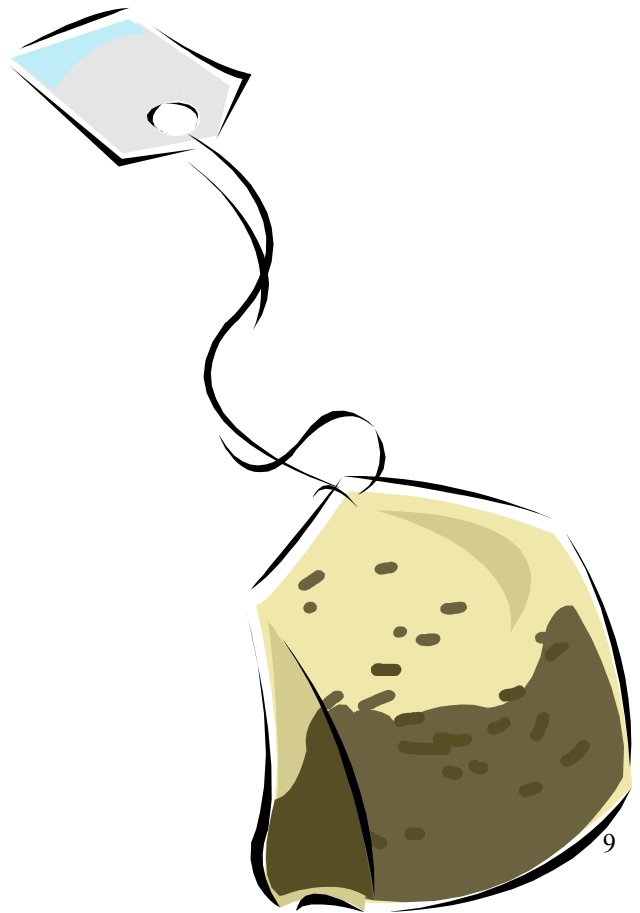
# Banana Peel



Flowers



Coffee  
grounds  
and  
tea bags



# Carbon-Rich Material



Anything that  
comes from a  
tree

# Shredded Newspaper

