



# Think Earth 2016/17

## Third Grade

### Topic: A. Conservation B. Composting

#### Lesson Plan:

1. Globe or Pic of Earth. Review our connection including need for water, food, air and energy. How many people live on this planet now? We're all sharing those needs (Population clock in background!) (5 minutes)
2. The 3 R's (actually 5) – show the symbol. Look, it's a circle, too. Symbolic? Review: display 5 items (water bottle, plastic bag, Styrofoam to-go container, packaged cheese/cracker) have class give me R/R/R examples for each. What are some eco-alternatives? (5 minutes)
3. Conservation – discuss what it means. examples (3 min) (show on white board)
4. 4R's Sorting Game - Show four stacks of cards: HazMat (yellow), Compost (green), Thrift (purple) and Recycle (blue). Divide the students into four groups and give each group a stack of cards, including category signs. Let them decide how to divide the cards on their own (designate a team leader for each group). It's not a competition. Once the first group finishes, review their piles with the class. (15 minutes)
5. Composting – what is it? Why do it? What are the benefits.... To our environment and water? Now open the big box full of compostable items. Let the students guess what should Not go in this pile? Explain how to compost and show the bug sheet. Lastly, pass around samples and the "How to Compost" handout to take home to their families. (5-10 minutes)
6. Review – name two things you learned today. (2 minutes)

#### Key Concepts:

- A. The need to conserve and ways we can do it.
- B. Introduction to composting – it's easy, fun, and ECO

**Learning Objectives**  
Students will gain more insight into waste reduction and conservation. They will also be introduced to Composting.

**Utah Core Objectives**  
*3rd Grade: Social Studies, Standard 1, Objective 3*

**Time:**  
45 minutes

#### **Materials needed:**

- Earth pic or globe
- Whiteboard
- Population clock
- Recycle samples
- Four sets of cards with signs
- Composting box & samples

#### **Spare time activities:**

- Landfill BIG book
- Posters

#### **Handouts:**

- How to Compost
- RU tri-fold

This lesson plan was made possible by a grant from Vail Resorts Epic Promise

Recycle Utah, 1951 Woodbine Way / PO Box 682998,  
Park City, UT 84068.  
PH: 435.649.9698. Recycling drop open 24/7. Visit us at  
[www.recycleutah.org](http://www.recycleutah.org)

- a. Reduce means to use less – it’s the most effective way to prevent waste from happening in the first place. Ways to reduce include: Using and buying less, turning off the lights when you leave the room, taking shorter showers, and carpooling or taking the bus to school.
- b. Reuse means using something as many times as you can. To practice reusing: Use both sides of a piece of paper, repair broken items instead of replacing them, shop at garage sales, read books from the library, and include secondhand clothes in your wardrobe.
- c. Recycle means to dispose of certain products – like paper, glass, aluminum, and plastic – at a special facility that will break them down for use in a new product.



Question: “What are 3 ways that composting lawn and kitchen waste can improve water quality?”

Answers:

1. Compost replaces synthetic fertilizers in people’s lawns that pollute stormwater run-off with nitrogen and phosphorus.
2. Compost improves soil so that water penetrates more easily and stays in the soil longer. This reduces the watering needs of your lawn and garden.
3. Compost helps protect soil from erosion, which means less sediment in run-off waters.

Question: “What are some other benefits of composting?”

Answers:

1. Composting keeps lawn and kitchen waste from filling landfills.
2. If your lawn waste is collected by your city, you are preventing nitrogen-rich run-off from leaves and grass left sitting on the curb. You also prevent the leaves and clippings from clogging storm drains. You also conserve energy by decreasing the stops that city vehicles must make to collect the waste.

Recycle Utah's "Think Earth"

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Quiz**

1. Name three things we as humans need to survive on our planet Earth?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Paper comes from trees and metal comes from Iron Ore, in our earth.

Where does glass come from? \_\_\_\_\_

Where does plastic come from? \_\_\_\_\_

3. The three arrows represent Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. What is an example of Reuse?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What does 'Conservation' mean?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Which is a hazardous waste?

A. Old t-shirt

B. Plastic bottle

C. Old cell phone

D. Banana Peel

Name three things that can go into a Compost Pile?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

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