

Nature recycles

Beginning to understand that nature recycles

Years

Middle Years (3 - 5)

Time

45 minutes

Overview

Using a poem, students identify nature's recycling and how these tools help the environment.

Materials

Poem (see attached): 1 whole photocopy, and one cut into 1 to 2 line strips
Drawing paper
Crayons, markers, and/or colored pencils
Tape (for teacher)
Bulletin Board

Teachers Note: Make two photocopies of the Nature Recycles poem. Determine the number of partners in the class and cut up the poem so that each pair gets one or two lines. Keep one copy of the poem intact for you to use. You will also need one photocopy of the poem for each pair of students.

Procedure

Warm-up: Tell students that now that they know how they are supposed to recycle the class is going to learn about how nature recycles. Read the poem, Nature Recycles, to the class. .

Divide the students into pairs.

Give each pair of students 1-2 lines from the poem.

Ask the students to try memorizing their lines.

Ask the students to draw a picture to depict their section of the poem. Ask them to choose which partner will say their lines to the class and which will show their picture.

When they finish bring the class back together. In order, ask each pair to recite their part of the poem and present their drawing.

Wrap-up: Have the students place the drawings and the cutout lines in order and tape them onto the Bulletin Board so that the entire poem is represented. Then ask the following questions:

- Who are "nature's recyclers" and what do they do?
- What are "nutrients" and why are they important?
- What is being "recycled" in the poem?
- Describe how the end of the poem connects to the beginning of the poem.

Nature Recycles



This is a worm. What does it do?
It digs under the leaves and chews them up, too.



This is a beetle with a hard black shell.
It chomps all the leaves on the ground where they fell.



This is a slater that hides in the dark.
It munches on dead plants in your garden and park.



This is a millipede; try counting its feet.
It crunches up plants and keeps the ground neat.



So nature's recyclers, as they crunch, munch and chew,
Break leaves into pieces that become nutrients, too.



Nutrients in the soil make trees big and strong.
They're sucked up by tree roots when spring comes along.



Nutrients are like food, and for trees they are good.
They help make new leaves, strong branches and wood.



And so last year's brown leaves that were part of the tree,
Were changed into food to make the new leaves you see.
