

**SAVE THE EARTH: IT'S EVERYONE'S HOME!**  
**LESSON 4: Grades K-3**  
**PLEASE CHOOSE TO REUSE!**

**Show Me Standards:**

*Academic Goals:* 1.1, 1.2, 1.8, 1.10, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6

*Knowledge Goals:* Comm. Arts: 1, 4 & 6; Mathematics: 1, 3 & 6; Science: 7 & 8

*Social Studies:* 5, 6 & 7; Fine Arts 1 & 4

**Objectives:**

1. Students will identify and distinguish reusable items from non-reusable items.
2. Students will apply their understanding of the concept of reusing by organizing a donation drive for reusable items needed by a local animal shelter.
3. Students will use the scientific method to determine which item is donated the most.

**Materials:**

- Pillowcase to fill with:
- Reusable items needed by animal shelters:
  - cardboard soda flat (litter box)
  - stuffed animals (to comfort the animals)
  - newspapers (line cages with)
  - gently used linens of all kinds (warmth and comfort)
  - gently used pet toys (entertainment and stimulation)
  - homemade treats (reinforce training), provide the recipe or make in class
- Large boxes or bins for donation drop off areas
- Poster paper
- Markers/crayons

**Method:**

1. Teachers have mastered the art of reusing! Whether by choice or necessity (saving \$), you are undoubtedly using things in your classroom for purposes other than their original purpose. Begin by asking the students what they think it means to reuse something. Discuss and agree upon an answer. Ask them to look around your classroom for items that you are currently using that originally served another purpose. For example, you might be using a shoe box to hold markers instead of purchasing a new container.
2. List the reasons why it is wise to reuse:
  - Save \$
  - Conserve resources
  - Less waste in landfills
  - Others might need what you don't (one person's trash is another's treasure)

Explain the above concept (trash=treasure) and that one type of organization who needs reusable items is an animal shelter. Demonstrate this by telling students you have a bunch of reusable items in your pillowcase that can be used by an animal shelter. Pull them out one by one and ask students to guess what they could be used for and explain the above reasons. Ask them to raise their hand if they have any of the above things in their homes right now that could be donated to an animal shelter instead of being thrown away, kept in the back of the closet or recycled. Bring them in! How can we gather even more items?

**Call to Action:**

Organize a donation drive and set a goal! Using the scientific method; hypothesize which item will be donated the most, make observations, collect the data, graph the data and determine the conclusion. Have your students get into groups to make posters to hang around school asking others to bring in the items too! Ask your principal for permission to make an announcement about the drive, put it in the school newsletter, etc.

Designate drop off areas and place boxes there to hold the items. Keep track of the collected items and graph the data on a bar graph to display for the school. What item did you collect the most of? The least of? Arrange a field trip to the local animal shelter to drop off the items. Ask for a tour and a chance to meet the animals you are helping!

Consider collecting these items in your classroom all year round and keep accurate records to assess the amount of “trash” that was reused.








**Web sites:** For recommended animal-related web sites visit [www.apamo.org](http://www.apamo.org) and choose “Animal Issues” from the left-side menu, then choose “Links” from the top of the page. Or [click here](#) to launch your browser and link directly to the list.

Teacher's box: Use this worksheet as part of a lesson on the three R's, reducing, reusing, and recycling the products we use.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Give Old Stuff a New Look

Many of the items we throw away can be recycled. For example, old paper can be made into new paper. Some items can be used again in different ways. Use your imagination to think of new things you can make from old stuff. Draw your idea below each picture.

<p>Example: coat hanger</p>  	<p>jelly jar</p> 	<p>yogurt cup</p> 
<p>paper bag</p> 	<p>soup can</p> 	<p>juice carton</p> 

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