SCOUTING FOR A BETTER PLANET

Course: MPAX Independent Study: MPAX 2901
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Introduction

My goal in working with Pea Ridge Girl Scout Troops 5457 and 5168 is to help develop environmental awareness in young girls. I feel that by teaching these young girls the basic knowledge about keeping the earth clean and the importance will give them a better understanding of why it is important to recycle and why everybody should keep the earth clean.
Project Overview

- This project covered the topics of recycling, littering, and keeping the planet clean.
- This project was interactive and collaborative with Pea Ridge Girl Scout Troops 5457 and 5168 current badge work.
- The materials and activities I provided for this project ensured that the students would be able to carry out what they were taught at home.
My project promoted environmental awareness to Pea Ridge Girl Scout Troops 5457 and 5168, 2nd grade level, by teaching them why it is important that we recycle, how littering not only affects people, but our planet, and how to keep earth clean by recycling and not littering.

This project also helped establish a future community project by helping the girl scouts set up a day during the spring to clean up litter on the side of the street in their community.

Contacts I made in the community are: Tammy McTier, the troop Leader of the Brownie Girl Scouts. She let me come in during one of her troop meeting to teach her twenty girls about scouting for a better planet.
Curriculum

- Becoming active in the community again
- Learn about the importance of recycling
- Learn about littering
- Learn why it is extremely important to keep our planet clean.
Technology

- Digital Camera
- Microsoft Front Page
- Cell Phone
- Texting
- Microsoft Word
- Copier/Printer

- Computers
- Internet
- Microsoft PowerPoint
- Laminator
- Scanner
- Business Lab
Skills

- As an individual I intend to expand my teaching, communication, and technological skills while also serving my community.
- I developed a sense of professionalism for my degree in Elementary Education.
- I also gained knowledge on how to develop age appropriate activities for my classroom.
Methodology

- The approach I took to achieve my project goal was by using visual aids, manipulative, songs, handouts, and doing a project.
- I presented my project to twenty brownie girl scouts from Pea Ridge.
- I asked questions to see what the girls already knew about recycling and littering and gave them other information they did not know.
Methodology Continued...

- I did two activities:
  - Litter Bag, which is where I had a bad of litter and asked the girls if they knew what it was and if they knew how long it would take for the litter to decompose (biodegrade).
  - Recycled Paper, I showed the girls how to recycle paper by using old newspaper and old construction paper.
Information on Littering

- What is littering?
  - Throwing of trash on the ground where it does not belong.

- Why do people litter?
  - They are lazy and do not want to look for a trash bin.
  - They do not think that certain things are litter, such as food.
  - They believe that someone else will pick up the trash.
  - They think that since litter is already on the ground so it is ok to throw trash there.

- How does the litter affect the planet?
  - Affects the wildlife living in the area. They can eat a piece of old food or trash and carry it off with them and choke, or get something caught around their neck and die.
  - Makes the planet looks trashy and not beautiful.
  - It is expensive to clean up.
  - It pollutes the waterways and our ecosystem.
Litter continued...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Litter Item</th>
<th>Time to break down (Biodegrade)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Glass bottles</td>
<td>1 million years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monofilament fishing line</td>
<td>600 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic beverage bottles</td>
<td>450 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposable nappies</td>
<td>450 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange peel</td>
<td>6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aluminum can</td>
<td>80 - 200 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foam plastic cup</td>
<td>50 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic bag</td>
<td>10 - 20 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cigarette filter</td>
<td>1 - 5 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US National Park Service; Mote Marine Lab, Sarasota, Florida
How to Control Litter

- If you see someone throw something on the ground, such as a piece of trash or even food, ask them to pick it up and throw it in a trash bin.
- Do not throw trash on the ground yourself.
- If you see a piece of trash on the ground try and pick it up yourself if you can.
- Recycle!!!
Litter Bag Activity

**Materials:**
- Paper sack
- Disposable cup
- Small glass bottle
- String
- Snack bag
- Plastic six-pack yoke
- Cigarette butt
- Balloon
- Beverage can
- Straw
Procedures...

- Put all the litter items in the brown paper sack. Have a couple of sacks prepared so you can divide the kids up into groups.
- Divide the children into groups of 4-6 people.
- Explain to the kids what is inside the bag and give them a piece of paper and pencil.
- Have the children empty the bags given to them and so each person in the group can see the items.
- Have them arrange the “Litter” and write it down on paper and have them rank them from “most undesirable to “least desirable” (which ones are worse for the environment than the other).
- Reinforce the lesson about littering and why it is important to keep the earth clean.
Song for Litter

(sung to the tune of “If your happy and you know it”)

If you see a piece of litter pick it up (Yell-PICK IT UP)
If you see a piece of litter pick it up (Yell-PICK IT UP)
You will make the world look better if you pick up all the litter
If you see a piece of litter pick it up (Yell-PICK IT UP)
Keep your Neighborhood clean
If you see trash on the ground, toss it in the trash can.
Information on Recycling

- **What is recycling?**
  - Recycling is the practice of somebody taking a used item and reusing it or turning it into something they can use again.

- **Why should we want to recycle?**
  - Recycling keeps the earth healthy.
  - Keeps the earth looking beautiful.
  - Protects our wildlife.
  - Keeps the watersheds clean for marine life.
  - It can earn you money.

- **How do we know if something is recyclable?**
  - Generally if it is cardboard, paper, plastic, etc it can be recycled.
  - Look for the recycling sign at the bottom of a package to see if it is recyclable.
What Can We Recycle?

- Aluminum Cans
- Steel Cans
- Newspaper
- Magazines and slick inserts
- Cardboard
- Office paper
- Plastics
- Glass
Recycled Paper Activity

**Materials:**
- Recycled newspaper
- Blender
- Water
- Flat strainer screen
- Wax paper
- Plastic bin
- Starch
- Construction paper or glitter (optional)
Procedures...

- Tear a half-page of newspaper into very small pieces.
- Put paper in blender and fill with water until slightly covering paper.
- Pulse blender until it creates a pulp.
- After pulp is created you can add strips of construction paper or glitter to the mixture.
- Pour pulp onto a screen over a plastic tub.
- Squeeze the excess water out of the screen with your hand or sponge.
- Keep pressing until all water runs clear and you have a flat surface.
- Put your paper on a piece of wax paper and set aside and let dry for a day or two.
- Once the paper is dry you will have your recycled paper!
This is what recycled paper looks like!!!
Recycling Song

(Sung to the tune of Eensy Weensy Spider)
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, words that we all know
We have to save our planet so we can live and grow
We might only be children but we will try, you’ll see
And we can save this planet, it starts with you and me!
Recycle Color Sheet

Draw your favorite plant or animal here above the Earth

Take Care of the Earth
Project Results

- The girls gained an understanding of why it is important to keep the planet clean.
- The students gained knowledge on how to recycle and how to keep from littering.
- I got the girls involved with their local community again.
- This project also allowed the girls to gain two badges while gaining knowledge of the lesson taught:
  - “Recycling Rocks”
  - “Science Works”
Future Project Ideas

- Revisit content and do a service project in the spring by having the girls set up a day to clean up a street in their community.
- Make a reward system for each meeting for each individual girl that tries to recycle.
Acknowledgements

- Tammy McTier - Pea Ridge Brownie Girls Scout Troop Leader
- Girl Scout Troops:
  - Brownies 5457
  - Brownies 5168
- Dianna Phillips - EMPACTS Facilitator
Works Cited

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