

DOLPHIN RESEARCH CENTER

Conservation Canvas!

Grade Level: K-2nd/3rd-5th

Objectives: Students will be able to demonstrate their understanding of the concept of reuse in terms of the 3 R's - reduce, reuse, & recycle - in a creative way.

Florida State Standards:

Social Studies

SS.B.2.1.4: (K-2) The student knows the role that resources play in our daily lives.

SS.B.2.2.3: (3-5) The student understands how human activity affects the physical environment

Art

VA.A.1.1.2: (K-2) The student uses art materials to develop basic processes and motor skills in a safe and responsible manner.

VA.A.1.2.1: (3-5) The student uses and organizes two-dimensional and three-dimensional media, techniques, tools, and processes to produce works of art that are derived from personal experience, observation, or imagination.

Science

SC.D.2.1.1: (K-2) The student understands that people influence the quality of life of those around them.

SC.D. 2.2.1: (3-5) The student knows that reusing, recycling, and reducing the use of natural resources improve and protect the quality of life.

National Science Education Standards:

Content Standard F (K-4) - Changes in Environments; Changes in environments can be natural or influenced by humans. Some changes are good, some are bad, and some are neither good nor bad. Pollution is a change in the environment that can influence the health, survival, or activities of organisms, including humans.

Content Standard F (5-8) Natural hazards: Human activities also can induce hazards through resource acquisition, urban growth, land-use decisions, and waste disposal. Such activities can accelerate many natural changes.

Background: As humans we are one of the most advanced life forms on Earth -- at least in terms of the impact we have on our planet and its inhabitants. We have a responsibility to consider our actions and to modify them when necessary. Most of the earth's surface is covered by water. Due to human activities, most of that underwater world is in danger. By far the most serious threat to marine mammals like dolphins, porpoises and whales is **pollution** - both marine debris and invisible toxins we create every day. By cutting down the amount of, or reducing, what we use, whether it is electricity or water, we make a difference. By reusing items over and over again, we also cut back or reduce the amount of



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resources used. For example, when we fill up a water bottle again and again instead of throwing it away and getting a new one, we make a difference. By recycling what we do throw away, we can ensure that our plastics, aluminum, and newspapers are made into something useful like paper, plastic bottles, and even yogurt containers!

Think about everything you do in relation to how it might effect the ocean, and, ultimately, dolphins. Each day you have the opportunity to **choose**, and to **change** your behavior. By using recycled or recyclable items, buying in bulk instead of many little packages, and, whenever possible, simply reusing materials, you can significantly reduce the amount of waste YOU create. To find out more about pollution and marine debris see **Threats to Dolphins** information file.

Materials:

- Canvas bags for each student
- Fabric paints (nontoxic)
- Paint brushes
- Stencils
- Sponge shapes
- Table cloth or newspapers to cover surface area
- Paper towels
- Cups of water (to rinse brushes in between paint colors)

Teacher Prep Notes:

Set up tables or desks with newspapers or tablecloths, and the materials needed: paints, stencils, sponges, and brushes, cups of water to rinse brushes, and paper towels.

Procedures:

1. Discuss pollution and the impact humans make on marine life.
2. Have everyone repeat the three most important R's: reducing, reusing, & recycling (see keywords).
3. Introduce the activity by telling students that they are actually going to focus on **reusing** today by painting canvas bags that they can reuse at the grocery store instead of getting new paper or plastic bags. They can even use them for trick-or-treat bags, Valentine's Day, and other numerous possibilities.
4. Introduce paint colors, stencils, sponges, etc. and all the supplies.
5. Paint away! Be creative!

Key Terms

The 3 R's:

Reduce: to cut down on the use of something like turning off the lights when you leave the room.

Reuse: to use something over again like a water bottle.

Recycle: to make something useful out of something else- take advantage of recycling bins! Make sure to find out which ones are for plastics like soda bottles, aluminum like coke cans or soup cans, paper like newspaper, etc.

Marine debris is anything from a discarded sandwich bag to a lost fishing net.

Pollution: the act of spoiling a natural resource or ecosystem with waste made by humans



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Wrap Up: Have students share their bags. At the end of the week, have them name at least one way they reused the bags!

Taking it Further:

- Have students come up with another activity in which they can apply one of the 3 R's!

