

DOLPHIN RESEARCH CENTER

Conservation Crafts!

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

Objectives: Students will demonstrate an understanding of the concept of recycling by making something new and useful out of something thrown away.

Florida Sunshine 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 threats to marine mammals like dolphins, porpoises and whales is **pollution** -- both **marine debris** and invisible toxins we create everyday. Almost everything we use has the potential to become marine debris, from the bottle of milk in the refrigerator to the refrigerator itself. The largest source of marine debris is runoff from land-



based sources, such as storm sewers and parking lots. That means that the **garbage we create** each day most likely will end up in the oceans and effect dolphins, whales, and other marine life.

Think about everything you do in relation to how it might impact 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. More background information can be found in the **Personal Solutions** and **Treats to Dolphins** information file.

Materials:

- Assorted Beads
- Monofilament fishing line cut into bracelet length strands
- Clasps or fasteners to tie at the ends of each bracelet

Teacher Prep Notes: Cut monofilament fishing line into strands to be used by students. If desired, tie one end off with a clasp.

Procedures:

1. Discuss pollution and the impact humans have on marine life.
2. Have everyone repeat the three most important R's: reducing, reusing, & recycling (see keywords).
3. Introduce fishing line and explain how it can become tangled around a manatee's flipper or a sea turtle or a bird's beak.
4. Tell students that they are actually going to recycle today by making bracelets out of fishing line!
5. Pass out beads and strings.
6. Have students string their bracelets using the beads provided.

Wrap Up: Share and wear your recycled craft!

Taking it Further: Have students see what it might be like to have monofilament entangled around you! Using rubber bands, have students place a rubber band over their hand (not wrist) and then loop it around their pointer finger. Without using their other hand, which is now their "flipper", have them try to get untangled. They may not use anyone else or any other body part!

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 or steel like soda 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.

