



Problem Alert!

Do The Snack Sort.

Time to look at our own trash. Have a snack and take a look at what's left. Crumbs? Cups? Wrappers? Have the kids decide what will decompose (break down and disappear naturally) and sort their trash. Ask the kids, "What things will decompose? Why?" Put everything that will decompose in the **Snack Sort Bucket** and make it a regular part of your daily routine. Find a place in your schoolyard to set up your school's own compost pile. (Compost is garbage like apple cores and orange peels that can be turned into fertilizer for our gardens.)

Try saying "snack sort" fast 5 times.



Make New Stuff From Old.

Some people think the only steps in recycling are the ones they take carrying newspapers out to the curb. But it's only the first step. Explain that recycling also means buying things that have been made out of recycled products. Have the kids imagine what recycled newspapers or plastic bottles can be changed into. Then set up a miniature recycling center in your classroom to show how recycled products are made.

- **Make key chains from pieces of plastic.** 1) Save **small plastic pieces** like tops of pens and cut up yogurt containers. 2) Cover a **cookie sheet with foil**, make little piles of plastic (3" x 3") and put in **oven at 350°**. 3) Watch through the window as they melt, then remove. 4) Cool, then **drill hole for a keychain ring**. Kids love to try to identify what was what!



Solutions to Pollution...

- Make **recycle signs** for garbage cans at home to remind everyone to recycle.
- Set up a **recycling center** in class. Recycle even if you don't have curbside service. Ask parents to take turns taking the stuff to a recycling drop-off.
- Make your own **composting bucket**. Use a **gallon ice cream container**. Or cut a **plastic milk jug** on three sides — leaving a side as a hinge for a cover. Have fun decorating with worm drawings and a sign that says "I Guess I'll Go Feed The Worms!". Take it home and find a spot in your yard to start a compost pile.



The Best Books On Earth:

Amazing Earth Adventures The KSE Group (Scholastic, Inc., 1992) (See p.25)

The Cat in the Hat Comes Back by Dr. Seuss (Beginner Books, 1958)

Bartholomew and the Oobleck by Dr. Seuss (Random House, 1949)

The Amazing Earthworm by Lilo Hess (Scribner, 1979)

Worms Eat My Garbage by Mary Appel

Kids Create! by Laurie Carlson (Williamson Publishing Co., 1990) How to make paper and great things from it!

Waste Control: Recycling Plastic by Joy Palmer (Franklin Watts, 1990)

Let it Rot! Home Gardener's Guide to Composting by Stu Campbell (Storey Communications, Inc., 1990)

The Unhuggables: The Truth About Snakes, Slugs, Spiders etc. (National Wildlife Federation, 1988)

Polystyrene makes my tummy sick

