Unit Plan on Recycling

Class Description

First class- Class is a grade 1/2 class comprised of about 23 students. There is an even distribution of boys and girls. There are a couple of students who are pulled out of the classroom and there is one boy who just came to Canada recently so he is just learning English. The students like to participate in class and will always volunteer when asked.

Second class- Class is a grade 1 class that has around 23 students. The class has more boys than girls. Since the class is only grade 1 instead of a 1/2 combined, the children need to move around more. If they are sitting on the carpet too long they start to talk with each other or get fidgety. The students do participate in the class but need more direction.

Lesson Plan One

Subject: Social Studies
Topic: Recycling
Grade: 1 and 2
Time limit: 40 minutes

***The Big Idea*:** Local actions have global consequences and global actions have local consequences

Curricular Competencies:

- Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to ask questions, gather, interpret, and analyze ideas and communicate findings and decisions.
- Recognize the consequences of events, decisions, and developments (cause and consequences)
- Make value judgments about events, decisions, and action, and suggest lessons that can be learned (ethical judgment)

***Prep / Materials*:**

- Recycling Detectives http://www.askhrgreen.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Recycling-Detectives-1st-Grade.pdf
- Recyclable and non recyclable items
- Paper to write down their classroom recycling findings for the detective activity

Hook and Activating Prior Knowledge:
Time Limit: 15 Minutes

- Each student table group has different recyclable and non-recyclable items (3 - 4 items) for them to explore. They can talk amongst their groups and decide what we will be learning that day. Each table group will share what they think we are discussing.

Learning Activities:
Time Limit: 20 minutes

- Ask students what they think it means to recycle. Pick 3 or 4 students to share their idea, and then briefly explain what recycling is.

- Talk about what we can/can't recycle- have secret things in a bag and choose 3 or 4 different students to put their hand in and pull out an object. Do you think we can/can't recycle it? Put it in the pile.
- Ask students if they know what a detective is and what they do.
- Recycling Detective activity- In small groups of 2 or 3, students will explore their classroom looking for materials they think are recyclable. They can make a list/draw the items. After 10 or so minutes of exploring, ask students to gather back at the carpet. Ask each group to share what they found and if they think it is recyclable.

Closure:
Time Limit: 5 minutes

- Gather students at the carpet. Hold up a couple of items that they worked with today such as a water bottle, glass jar and ask them if they are recyclable. To challenge them, hold up a piece of garbage, and ask them if it is recyclable.
- Tell students they can continue being detectives when they go home by continuing to look for recyclable materials.

Assessment during lesson

- Putting the objects in the right category from the bag- recyclable/non-recyclable.
- Finding correct recyclable material around the classroom and drawing pictures of them.

Extension/Adaptations

- Next class we will be reviewing recyclable materials and then extending it into categories: plastic, compost, cardboard and newspaper. Students will have the opportunity to sort a variety of materials.

Lesson Plan Two

Subject: Social Studies
Topic: Recycling
Grade: 1 and 2
Time limit: 50 minutes

The Big Idea: Local actions have global consequences and global actions have local consequences

Curricular Competencies:

- Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to ask questions, gather, interpret, and analyze ideas and communicate findings and decisions.
- Recognize the consequences of events, decisions, and developments (cause and consequences)
- Make value judgments about events, decisions, and action, and suggest lessons that can be learned (ethical judgment)

Prep / Materials:

- Recyclable materials
- Pictures and charts
- Plastic Recycling Bin from the school
- Recycling Video - http://youtu.be/BaFpv03hq-4

Hook and Activating Prior Knowledge:
Time Limit: 10 minutes

- Recycling Video - http://youtu.be/BaFpv03hq-4.
- Review items that can and can't be recycled.
- Ask them at home what do they recycle.
- Talk about the different recycling categories- paper and card, plastic, glass, and metal, bottles, cans, and juice boxes, compost.

Learning Activities:
Time Limit: 35 minutes

- Using the board, have the different items and let the children put the items into the right category.
- Get a plastic recycling bin from the school and look to see what's inside. Ask if the items inside are recyclable.
- Activity- have an over/under game. Children will have two or three teams. They have a bucket of items and they have to go over/under and the last person has to puts it where it belongs. Then that person runs to the front and grabs a new item and they continue until they are done.

Closure:
Time: 5 minutes

- Gather students at the carpet in a circle. Hold up a couple of items that they worked with today, such as a water bottle, glass jar, and ask them what category it goes into.

Assessment during lesson

- Putting the objects in the right category from the smart board.
- Over under game- placing the objects in the right category.

Extension/Adaptations

- Next class we will be reviewing the different recycling categories. Then we will talk about reusing objects.

Lesson Plan Three

Subject: Social Studies
Topic: Recycling/Reusing
Grade: 1 and 2
Time limit: 50 minutes

***The Big Idea*:** Local actions have global consequences and global actions have local consequences

Curricular Competencies:

- Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to ask questions, gather, interpret, and analyze ideas and communicate findings and decisions.
- Recognize the consequences of events, decisions, and developments (cause and consequences)
- Make value judgments about events, decisions, and action, and suggest lessons that can be learned (ethical judgment)

***Prep/Materials*:**

- Recyclable Materials
- Five Category signs- Garbage, paper and card, plastic, glass, and metal, bottles, cans, and juice boxes, compost.
- Book- Joseph Had A Little Overcoat by Simms Taback
- Glue
- Markers
- Scissors

Hook and Activating Prior Knowledge:
Time Limit: 15 minutes

Hook:

Reduce, reuse, recycle
(tune to eensy weensy spider)

Reduce Reuse Recycling, words that we all know
We have to help our planet so we can live and grow
We might be only children, but we will try, you'll see
And we can help the planet it starts with you and me.

- Write the song up on the board, practice with students once, stand up and sing it. Teach them the actions to the song. Jen can play the tune on the ukulele.

Learning Activities:
Time Limit: 30 minutes

- Set up three stations and five-six people per group:
- Station 1- Paper and card- have pieces of newspaper and they make a plane and see how far they go. Show the students how to make an airplane or if they already know let them make their own. Do a couple of practice tries to see how far it goes. Then put a can worth ten points and see if they can get their plane over the can. If they can add another can worth twenty points. Continue this process until the eight minutes is up.

- Station 2- Plastic, glass, and metal, bottles- have a bunch of plastic and they have to see how high they can build a tower before it falls. Students can work as a group or in pairs.
- Station 3- Cans, and juice boxes- set up the plastic bottles and cans as bowling pins and they can bowl
- Each student will have seven-eight minutes at each station to explore the recyclable objects. After seven-eight minutes they switch. Each group will get a turn at each station.

Closure:
Time: 5 minutes

- Bring the children back to the carpet and review all the recyclable objects we used and what category it went into.

Assessment during lesson

- Making connections between reducing, reusing, recycling and how they can do this in their everyday life. In addition this makes students aware of their responsibility to the planet, and what kind of actions they can take to make the world a better place.

Extensions:

- The teacher can read Joseph Had A Little Overcoat by Simms Taback, to make the connection that students can reuse items in their everyday life to reduce their environmental impact.
- Students can create art at home, or in their free time, using recyclable materials that they find around their home, school, or outside.

Resource Critique

Resource	Validity	Age Appropriate	Accessibility	Interest
Recycling Detective	Yes, teaches students to walk around their classroom and see what is recyclable	Yes,	Internet: http://www.askhrgreen.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Recycling-Detectives-1st-Grade.pdf	Students enjoyed walking around and drawing/writing what they found. Could work as a group.
Recyclable/ Non Recyclable items	Yes, students can visually see what is recyclable and not recyclable.	Yes	Yes, go through your recycling bins and pick out the different items.	Yes, students can actually feel the recyclable items and make a connection.

				Put hand in bag. Surprise on what they'll pull out.
Recycling video	Yes, it shows the process of where recyclable materials go. What can/can't be recycled.	Yes, many of them have seen it before. The language was age appropriate and easy for them to understand.	Internet: http://youtu.be/BaFpv03hq-4.	Yes, the video was a cartoon and visually it was appealing for the students.
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle song	Yes, it talking about what they can do to help the environment.	Yes. It had appropriate language and the tune was the same as eensy weensy spider. A song they are familiar with.	Internet: http://www.dltk-kids.com/crafts/earth/rrr.htm	Yes. The song is easy to sing for students of all abilities. Bringing in a musical instrument, and adding actions, helps engage students and makes it easier for them to remember the song.
Joseph Had A Little Overcoat by Simms Taback	Yes, it discusses reusing items that we have in our everyday life.	Yes. It is a storybook aimed at elementary school children.	Library / Book store	Yes. The pictures are colourful and the story is engaging for children. The book allows for an open discussion between the students.