



Kids Page



OF THE EPA TRIBAL WASTE JOURNAL

Calendar Contests

Want a way to deliver your waste management or environmental message 12 months of the year? Create a calendar and fill it with recycling, composting, and other waste reduction tips. Consider sponsoring a poster or photography contest for students as artwork for the calendar to get kids excited and involved. The Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians held a poster contest for middle school students. More than 40 students submitted posters with a pollution prevention and protecting the environment theme. Red Lake Department of Natural Resources staff selected the 12 winning posters for use in the calendar and distrib-

uted more than 500 calendars to tribal members.

The White Earth Band of Chippewa Biology Department also produced a calendar to increase environmental awareness within the community. The calendar featured photographs of scenic areas on the reservation, such as a local landing at sunset and native wildlife, and contained environmental quotations in Ojibwa from famous chiefs. The tribe packed the back page of the calendar with information on its solid waste ordinance and ways for members to report illegal dumping incidents.



COMPOST CROPS

After your kids have put in all the hard work and effort composting yard trimmings or food scraps in their backyard and vermicomposting bins, here is a great exercise to demonstrate the usefulness of compost. Using two similar garden plots—one with a bucket of compost mixed into the soil and one without—kids can compare compost's influence on the plants' rate of growth. Over a 4 or 5 week period of watering, weeding, and measuring the plant growth for each of the plots, kids can compare the size and appearance of the plants in both plots. They can also dig up one plant from each plot and compare the root structures of both plants, and dig around in the soil and examine and compare differences between the soil texture, moisture content, and presence of worms or other insects. When the vegetables are ripe, harvest and have a feast!

For additional information about this activity, visit <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/kids/quest/pdf/37crops.pdf>, or order a free copy of The Quest for Less: Activities and Resources for Teaching K-6 (EPA530-R-00-008) from EPA's National Service Center for Environmental Publications (NSCEP) at 1-800-490-9198.

“Worms are more powerful than the African Elephant and more important to the economy than the cow.”

—Charles Darwin

COMPOSTING AND OTHER WASTE REDUCTION WEB SITES FOR KIDS

FirstGov For Kids <www.kids.gov> is the U.S. government interagency Kids' Portal developed and maintained by the Federal Citizen Information Center. It provides links, grouped by subject, to federal kids' sites along with some of the best kids' sites from other organizations. Included are links to numerous composting, vermicomposting, and recycling sites.

healthfinder®, <www.healthfinder.gov> developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is an excellent resource for finding government and nonprofit health and human services information on the Internet. Among the links to more than 1,500 health-related organizations' Web sites, are links to numerous environmental health sites, including several composting and recycling sites.

COMPOSTING

EPA's Planet Protectors Club for Kids
<www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/kids/index.htm>

Kids Recycle! Composting
<www.kidsrecycle.org/composting.php>

Recycling: Make a Compost Heap for Your Garden (World Wildlife Fund)
<www.panda.org/news_facts/education/middle_school/homework_help/projectidea.cfm?pjid=1>

Reduce Waste—If Not you, Who? (Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance) <www.reduce.org>

VERMICOMPOSTING

Ask the Answer Worm!
<www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/education/squirm/skworm.html>

As the Worm Turns: Worm Composting at Portland Public Schools
<www.pps.k12.or.us/district/depts/fam/enviro/wormturns.shtml>

Kids Recycle! Vermi-composting
<www.kidsrecycle.org/worms.php>

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Kids' Pages: Vermicomposting (Making Good Use of Garbage!)
<www.niehs.nih.gov/kids/worms.htm>

The Adventures of Herman: The Autobiography of Squirmin' Herman the Worm <www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/worms/index.html>

Worm Away Your Cafeteria Food Scraps (North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service) <www.bae.ncsu.edu/people/faculty/sherman/worms.html>

GARDENING

Junior Master Gardener
<www.k2demo.com/jmg/index.k2?did=2016§ionID=2016>

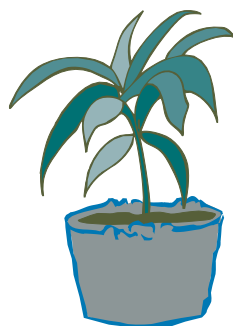
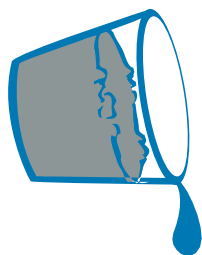
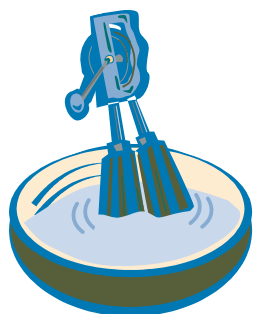
University of Illinois Extension: My First Garden: A Guide to the World of Clever and Fun Gardening
<www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/firstgarden/index.html>

Handmade Recycled Paper Planters

Here is an activity that lets kids close the loop on used paper by creating recycled paper planters out of used newspaper. Begin by soaking small pieces of shredded newspaper and pulping the paper fibers with a hand egg beater until it looks like mush. Then mold the pulp to the inside of a plastic cup-shaped container or soda bottle with the top cut off, squeezing out as much water as possible. Let the pulp dry completely for the next three days. Carefully remove the handmade recycled paper planter from its mold, and it is ready for use! The planter can be transplanted in the ground where it will decompose

and provide nutrients to the plant as it takes root and grows. You can further close the loop by using compost from classroom vermicomposting or backyard bins and planting the seedlings in school or home gardens.

For additional information about this activity, visit <<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/kids/quest/pdf/29plant.pdf>>, or order a free copy of *The Quest for Less: Activities and Resources for Teaching K-6* (EPA530-R-00-008) from EPA's National Service Center for Environmental Publications (NSCEP) at 1-800-490-9198.



COMPOSE YOUR OWN COMPOSTING SONG

Have your kids write lyrics about composting, recycling, or any other environmental issue. They can rewrite the lyrics to one of their favorite songs or compose their own music and lyrics. The Compost Song is a great example:

THE COMPOST SONG: "TAKE ME OUT TO THE COMPOST"
(Sung to the tune of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game")

Take me out to the compost
Take me out to the pile.
Add some soil and a few good worms
I don't care if I'm turned and I'm churned
'Cause it's root root root for the microbes;
If they don't live it's a shame.
For in two, four, six weeks, I'm out
in the old garden.

—Pam Ahearn, Waits River School,
East Corinth, Vermont