



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY Lesson Plans for Teachers

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The Landfill Loafers meet the Wise buys

Grade level:

- Fourth grade.

Sample TEKS for 4th grade: Science:

- 4.1A, B
- 4.2A, B, C, D
- 4.3A, C, D

Social Studies:

- 4.9A - C

Objectives:

Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of recyclable materials and proper disposal of these items and which waste materials can be recycled.

Materials:

Students will be asked to bring:

- clean recyclable products such as aluminum can
- plastic milk jug
- newspaper
- several examples of recycle-content items
- The teacher will provide construction paper signs for students to hold which represent "landfill loafers" and "wise buys"

Background:

The teacher will explain to students that too many products are often used once and are then thrown away. Some common examples are our plastic milk jugs, our daily newspaper, or our aluminum drink cans. These items are then deposited into a landfill with all kinds of waste items. They may lie in a landfill for hundreds of years becoming Landfill Loafers. However, many of these products could have a useful life after their initial use if their owner would recycle them. Items which are recycled instead of being thrown away can be made into new products, The Wise Buys. Some of these new products may surprise them.

Procedure:

Select several students who can represent the Landfill Loafers. These students will stand in front of the class and hold a sign which represents an item which could be recycled such as an aluminum can, a newspaper, a glass container or a plastic milk jug. The number of Landfill Loafers can be as comprehensive as is age appropriate or as time permits. Other students will represent the Wise Buys which are the new products made in part or completely from recycled products. Once again the list can be as lengthy as is age appropriate. The students representing

Wise Buys will try to determine from which Landfill Loafer their product was made. The Wise Buys will take their place behind the appropriate Landfill Loafer. (See list at end of lesson). The teacher will discuss with students about which Wise Buys were made from which Landfill Loafer.

Landfill Loafers.....and some matching Wise Buys

Aluminum cans.....new soda cans, siding for a house, support poles for a playscape, roofing

Glass containers.....new glass packaging, decorative tiles, reflective paint for roads, filtration systems, aggregate for road base

Paper.....new writing paper, bath and facial tissue building insulation, cereal boxes, cardboard, paper towels, paper plates, file folders, 3-ring binders

Plastics.....plant pots, plastic lumber, can liners, lawn furniture, clothing, car bumpers, drain pipes, pallets, marine piers, decking lumber, playground equipment, park benches

Tires.....marine habitats, crash barriers, playground ground cover, parking stops, soaker hoses, roofing

Steel food cans.....appliances, auto parts, construction beams, new steel cans

Submitted by: Eunice Hefty, TCEQ staff