

Re-cycle Race

Goal: Students will work as a team while increasing their awareness of the importance of recycling, their involvement with recycling and their enjoyment of recycling.



Materials:

1 large cardboard box per team

paper for flags

markers, crayons, paint, etc.

sparkles, stickers, fun foam, cottonballs, glue, etc.

1 stick per team (to attach their flag to their recycle box)

duct tape (to secure the stick to the box)

Procedure:

Divide your class into teams (4-5 students per team). Have each team choose a name (e.g. Recycle Maniacs, Environmental Experts). Give the team some time to decorate their team flag and recycling box

Set a time limit for race (if the race is longer than 1 week, do weekly tallies and recycle dumps so the boxes do not get too full). Students can collect recycling from anywhere within the school grounds to put into their team's box.

The team with the most recyclable garbage in their box by the end of the race will win (prize determined by teacher).



Resourceful students can create manned collection stations in the lunch-room, do lunchtime garbage pick-up around the playground, ask for donations from teachers, or do any other activities to increase the quantity of recycled garbage they get.

It may be necessary to assign days to the above activities. This may require the students to be more creative in their pick-up duties (e.g. singing-recycle-team, wearing costumes, handing out stickers to people who contribute, etc.)

Extra Projects/Adaptations:

Limit the recycling to refundable items. Take a field trip to a bottle depot at the end of the race and use the funds for a class treat (e.g. icecream cones).

Have each team design a recycle awareness poster encouraging other students to be more aware of recycling issues and what they can do to help.

Have each student write a short essay on the troubles and achievements the encountered while in the recycle race.

Once the race is over, use the best decorated box (or winner's box) in the classroom to collect recycling on a regular basis. See if other classes would like the remaining boxes.

Deduct points from any team who does not clean &/or squish their recycling as required by the local recycle depot.

Deduct points from any team that has an excessively messy recycle box.

Extend the recycle boundaries to the local park or home.