

SWAP DAY

Grades:

3 – 4

Time Allotments:

Teacher preparation: 20 minutes

Lesson and Activity: Several class periods for planning plus actual “Swap Day” activity

Concepts:

Waste Reduction

Waste Reuse

Integrated Curricular Areas and Corresponding Core Curriculum Content Standards:

Language Arts:

Technology:

Content Objectives: Students will be able to:

1. Describe one or more ways that items can be reused before being discarded;
2. Describe how to organize a “Swap Day”; and
3. Explain why it is beneficial to reduce the amounts of waste that people produce.

Process Objectives: Students will:

1. Assist with planning and promoting a “Swap Day”;
2. Assist with implementing a “Swap Day”; and
3. Collect feedback about the program.

Materials:

- Items for swapping
- Computer publishing program or poster paper and markers
- Internet access
- Pencils and paper

Procedures - Anticipatory Set:

- Discuss these questions with the students:
 - *What do you think happens to trash that comes from homes and schools? Explain how much trash is produced daily and options for trash disposal in New Jersey*
 - *Why do you think it would be beneficial to reduce the amounts of trash?*
 - *What do you think the term “waste reuse” means? One way of reducing trash is to reuse items again for the same (or a different) purpose. Do you have items that were used by others then given to you? If so, what?*
 - *What items can be reused at home, school, or in the community? How? Consider:*
 - Writing on both sides of a piece of paper
 - Using empty margarine and cottage cheese containers for food storage

- Using empty soda bottles for crafts, bird feeders, etc.
 - Flea markets, yard sales, thrift stores and consignment shops
 - Giving small clothing items to siblings or other family members
 - Using a cloth bag to take shopping instead of using a store's paper or plastic bags
 - Using a water bottle instead of buying new bottles of drinking water
- The "Swap Day" concept can be small or large scale. A small scale swapping activity could focus on one item and take place among classmates in the classroom. A large scale activity could focus on the exchange of many items and/or take place in the gymnasium and involve one grade, many grades, parents, community members, etc. The teacher should decide in advance what scale he/she feels comfortable with or discuss options and make decisions with the students

Procedures - Teacher's Presentation or Modeling:

- Explain that this lesson and project will focus on the "reuse" of items and that the class will work together to create a "Swap Day" for class, grade, school or family participation
- Ask the students to identify items that are common in most homes, not expensive and are often given or thrown away – such items would be good to exchange on "Swap Day." Also emphasize which of these items are of interest to the students
- Such items could include books, software games, movie CDs or videos, toys, sports equipment, collectibles or hobby items, jewelry and clothes

Procedures - Guided and Independent Practice:

- Decide on the scale of your Swap Day event and identify with the students one or two items they would like to swap
- Work with the students as well as faculty to coordinate Swap Day logistics and plans:
 - Date, time and location
 - Item(s) to be swapped
 - Criteria for swap items (i.e., total # of items to be brought by each student, value for each item not to exceed a certain amount, etc.)
 - Letter and permission slip to go home to parents that describe the event and its purpose as well as note the item(s) to be swapped, value limit for each as well as quantity limits – get written approval for swap items from each student
 - Have students work in small groups to design posters for the classroom to promote Swap Day; or, have them work on the computer to design a brochure that would be circulated around the school to promote Swap Day to appropriate targeted audiences. Brochure information should include Swap Day purpose and logistics as well as the benefits of reducing waste
 - Have students use Internet resources to see if leftover Swap Day items can be donated somewhere (where they will be of future use) or can be recycled
 - Discuss with students how Swap Day activities should be run and organized. If more than one item is being brought to swap, how will this occur? (Consider putting a "swap area" for each item in various corners of a room.) Some rules may need to be established and promoted to participants, such as:

- Allow time (1 minute) to exchange and examine items to be swapped
- If both parties agree to a swap and the exchange is made it is considered final
- One item is to be swapped for one of same item, hopefully of similar value (1 book for 1 book, 1 video game for 1 video game, 1 toy for 1 toy, etc.)
- All swap items must be in good shape and not damaged
- Stealing and other illegal or unethical activity is not allowed
- Have students create a short feedback form that can be filled out by anyone who participates in Swap Day
- At the conclusion of Swap Day students should go home with the same number of items that they brought to swap (although they are different items). If items are left behind the class must make sure that the items are donated to an organization that can put them to good use

Procedures – Closure:

- Review the meaning of “reuse” with the students
- Go through the feedback forms and review comments with the students – what improvements can be made, if any, if Swap Day is held again?
- Ask the students to review how waste was reduced by Swap Day and how such reduction benefits the environment
- Ask students to write a paragraph about what the following saying (anonymous) means to them: *“One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.”*

Assessment:

- Responses to teacher’s questions;
- Participation in organizing, participating in and debriefing Swap Day; and
- Written paragraph about the saying.

Extension of Lesson:

- Donate leftover items to organizations in need.

Safety/Clean Up:

- Emphasize to students that Swap Day items must be clean, in good shape, working and have no sharp edges. When the Swap Day activity is completed items should be taken home. Those left at school should be donated, recycled or discarded properly.