Sorting Waste

Lesson 3

**Purpose:** To teach students how to properly sort classroom waste (recycling, composting, garbage).

**Materials:**

\*recycling, composting and garbage bin

\*waste that has been collected over the last few days

\*plastic sort (see below)

**Procedure:**

1. Look at the garbage that you have gathered in the garbage bin over the last couple of days. Discuss with students if they see anything that does not belong in the garbage. Ask them where it should go. If they know the answer, discuss why garbage might be thrown out incorrectly. If there are yoghurt containers, etc. in the bin, discuss how they need to be rinsed, etc. before being thrown away.

2. Follow the same procedure as above for the blue bin.

3. Discuss compost.

4. Pass out the plastic sorting activity and have students cut out the items and then place them in the correct bins. I use a small blue bin and a small, clean wastepaper basket.

**Note:** The picture of the Mott’s is for the lid. The picture of the Danone is for the container.

5. Once everyone has disposed of their plastic, look through the bins and see how well students have done. If a piece of plastic is in the wrong bin, hold it up and ask the class where it belongs.

6. Choose waste monitors who will check the garbage, compost and recycling throughout the day to make sure that items are being sorted correctly.

**Extension:**

Have your class pick up garbage around the school (metal tongs from the dollar store are great for this). They can use a tally sheet to categorize garbage. Students can draw a graph of the types and number of garbage items they find. An announcement can be made over the P.A. about the results.

  

  

  

  

  