

Caring for our Bushlands and Water (Year 3)

Curriculum Links:

Geography

- Save our bushland

Science

- Disappearing ice cubes

Topics Discussed

Littering and Illegal Dumping

- What is litter and illegal dumping
- Where do we see litter and illegal dumping - in the bush
- How can it affect our bushland?
- Waste hierarchy - reduce waste to reduce landfill sites - saving our land

Water Cycle

- All the water ever on earth is still on earth
- Discuss (heat) evaporation, rain, water catchment

Making compost

- Heat from the sun to break down the leaves, branches etc
- Needs to be hot to kill pests and weeds

Before you start the lesson

- Make sure you have Red/ Green and yellow bins for demonstration purpose. Alternatively, use any two bins in the classroom and label it as Red/ Green and Yellow bins
- Gather some display items (example -empty plastic bottles, cans, glass bottles, paper/cardboard)

Lesson Outline/ Teacher Resource

Today we are going to talk about a couple of different topics. Firstly, we are going to talk about our rubbish in the bush and then we are going to talk about composting and water.

Let us discuss different coloured bins. What are the 5 Recycling Items? (Glass, paper, plastic, steel, aluminium)

Let us discuss some recycling rules. No lids-lids go into rubbish, rinse it, no plastic bags, no bagging boxing.

Play the "sorting game" -Put a pile of items in a box - students to pick up an item and put into correct bin - make into a relay if enough space

Where should rubbish go? Not in the ground, right?

Bushland is part of what we call our natural environment. Bushland can also include creeks. Bushland is a habitat to lots of animals, but unfortunately, many people decide that bushland is a good place to leave their rubbish. When people leave their rubbish on the roadside or in bushland, we call it Illegal Dumping and Littering. We see bushland in our area when we drive to Hervey Bay/Maryborough, once we leave the town area; some of us live near bushland areas.

-Where do we see litter and illegal dumping- in the bush, along the road, carparks, playgrounds, beach, ocean

-How can it affect our bushland? Hurt animals, hurt us, start fires (glass and metal in the sun), looks Yuk, can be smelly

Having too much rubbish at the dump also harms our environment because we need to use our land space to bury our rubbish. We can all follow the Waste Hierarchy to reduce our waste impact

Do you think there might be a few ways that we can lessen the amount of rubbish that we make?

Let's discuss the 3 R's and Waste Hierarchy

Use "Waste Hierarchy" poster.

Another way to reduce our impact on the environment is to compost or mulch our green waste (trees, branches, leaves, grass clippings) and organise waste (food scraps).

To compost or mulch we need to use 3 elements. Can anyone guess what they are:

Heat from the Sun

Air

Water

And then it's just time for everything to break down - about 6 - 8 weeks is usual.

Green waste and organic waste are the biggest contributors to taking up space in the landfill, and also to the creation of methane gas, a very toxic gas, that we have to remove from the landfill and treat so it does not get into the air.

Now, something else that also uses heat and water is the water cycle.

Use "water cycle" poster- discuss the water cycle - (evaporation, condensation and precipitation) and water catchments.

Did you know that all the water ever on the earth is still on the earth! We still use the same water that dinosaurs did!!!

Questions for discussion

- Q. What do we call rubbish that is left in the bushland?
- Q. How can illegal dumping affect our bushland?
- Q. What are some of the steps in the waste hierarchy?
- Q. what are the three elements used to make mulch?
- Q. Can we make more water than what we already have?
- Q. What do we call the process when water goes back up to the clouds?

