



## Enrichment Activities-

### Southern Environmental Center

#### The Interactive Museum

The Southern Environmental Center offers many hands-on activities to help your students understand the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling. They will also be challenged to consider their own role in protecting the planet.

The most successful field trips visits where students have been prepared for their visit and are challenged to reflect on the visit after they return to the classroom. Below you will find activities that can be completed before or after your visit. These plans can be used across grade levels.

#### Lesson plans for use Pre- and Post- visit to the

#### Southern Environmental Center Interactive Museum:

The three pre-visit and post-visit plans were designed by Birmingham-Southern College students participating in the class “Methods of Teaching Science and Health” – Dr. Kelly Russell

##### Preview to Your Visit

##### Recycled Art

Before and after your visit to the Interactive Museum

##### Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

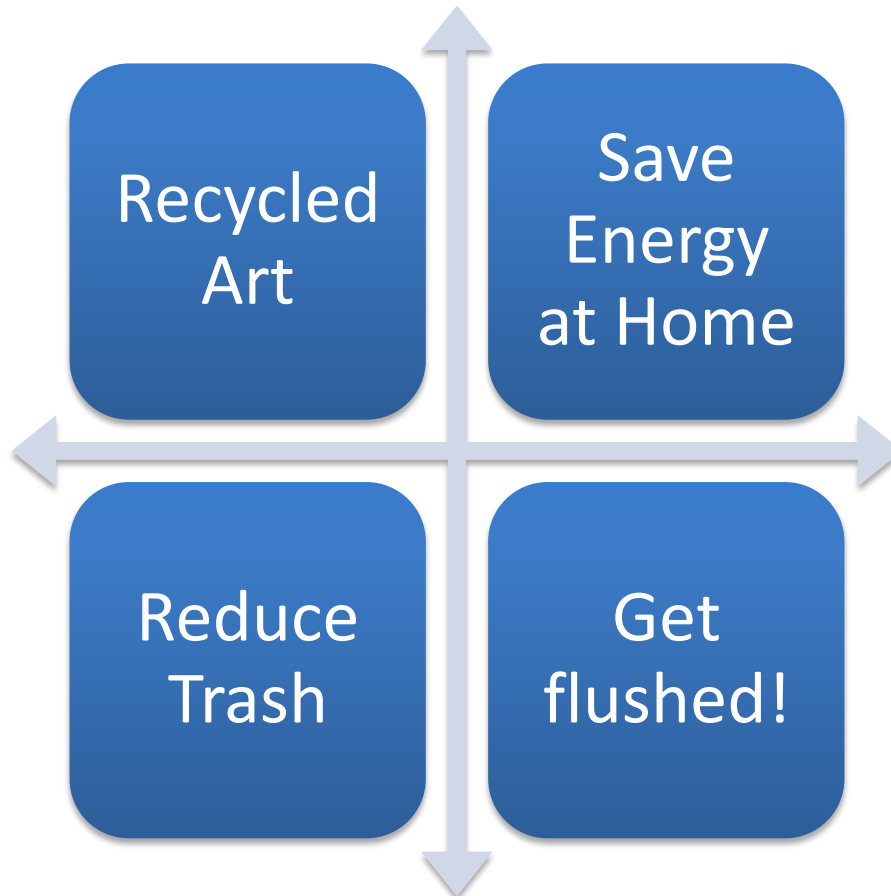
Before and after your visit to the Interactive Museum

##### Reducing waste / Myths about Recycling

Before and after your visit to the Interactive Museum

# Southern Environmental Center

## Don't Miss This!



**Preview before you visit:**

<http://www.bsc.edu/sec/tour/index.html>



**These questions will help guide your visit or serve as follow-up discussion starters.**

- What was your *favorite piece of recycled art*?
- Would you like to create your own recycled art? What materials might you use? (Follow this by having the student(s) express themselves with a recycled art project.)
- What changes can you and your family make that might *save energy* in your home?
- What changes can you and your family can make to *save water* in your home?
- Why do you think the *columns of the garbage chart* have grown over the years? What do you predict will happen to the columns if someone continues to add columns over the next few years?
- Talk to your neighbor about *something that surprised you* at the Southern Environmental Center Interactive Museum.

## Lesson Plan 1: Recycled Art BEFORE YOUR VISIT



### Before your visit:

1. Have students examine a pile of materials that you have brought into class, things that they might call “trash.”

Discuss with the children what they are thinking as they examine the pile.

Bring out a piece of artwork made from the exact same materials as the “trash” pile. Have the students examine the artwork much in the same way that they examined the pile of “trash.”

Discuss with the students what they are thinking as they examine the piece of art.

Ask the students if they see the pile differently now that they have seen what the “trash” can be used for.

Introduce the term “recycled art.”

2. Separate the classroom into several different stations containing different information about recycled art, such as:

Books of artists famous for recycled art

Different pictures of recycled art

Lists of commonly used materials

Articles about the impact/importance of recycled art

Have the students rotate through the stations and take notes on pieces of information they feel are important or interesting.

3. Bring the class together and discuss what they learned at each station. What did they write down that they found to be important to know or interesting to learn?

Ask the students how they would define “recycled art?” Write what they say for all to see, such as on a white board or a large piece of paper.

## **Lesson Plan 1: Recycled Art AFTER YOUR VISIT**



### After your visit:

1. Have the class sit in a circle/group.

Have the students discuss in pairs what they observed on the field trip.

Discuss as a class what they observed on their field trip to the SEC.

Refer the students to the list of words/phrases they associated with recycled art before the field trip.

- Do they wish to add or change anything on that list?
- Did they notice these things while at the SEC?

2. Tell the students that they now get to make their own recycled art just like the artists they studied before the field trip!

Hang pictures of recycled artwork around the room.

Distribute the materials among the students (if the desks are in groups, perhaps have one person from each group come and get the materials).

3. Have the students present their artwork to the class, sharing what they were thinking as they created the artwork:

- Why these materials?
- What did I use as my inspiration?
- What do I hope people see in my artwork?
- What can my artwork teach people about recycled art?

Hang the artwork around the room alongside the pictures of recycled artwork that the students may have used as inspiration.

## Lesson Plan 2: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



### Before your visit:

1. Ask about students' prior knowledge about the 'three Rs' – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Discuss whether any of the students recycle at home and where they have heard of recycling before.

2. Discuss with students what Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Reinvent mean.

Ask students what types of different things can be recycled. Make an anchor chart with those ideas on it.

Talk with the class about why they recycle.

3. Give students a basket with a variety of items in it. They will then be asked to discuss with their group which items we can recycle and which ones cannot be recycled. Ask students to put the items that can be recycled in the basket and keep ones that cannot in the center of their desks.

The groups will then take turns showing the class what they think can be recycled and why.

Discuss what common items the groups chose to recycle and talk about why they recycled those products.

### After your visit:

1. Discuss what students learned about recycling at the Southern Environmental Center.

Ask students about ideas for recycled art like they saw at the SEC.

Make an anchor chart with students' ideas about the recycled art projects.

Discuss with the class about what they learned about recycling at the SEC and how they can recycle in their lives.

2. Get groups of students to research recycled art projects.

Have each group present the projects they found to the class in form of printed pictures, posters, or power points.

Give students a piece of blank printer paper and are asked to draw a recycled art project that they would like to make.

3. Students will each get a bag of recycled goods.

Ask students to take this home and make their own recycled art project and bring it back to show the class.

Discuss with the class different ideas for recycled art projects around the school and community and what they can do to help the recycling cause.

## Lesson Plan 3: Reducing waste / Myths about Recycling



### Before your visit:

1. Empty out the garbage bins from a day's worth of classroom waste onto a large tarp

Ask students how much they think the garbage weighs

Write some statistics and facts about the average amount of garbage that a classroom produces each day

Sort classroom trash into recyclables and non-recyclable

2. Provide them with books, articles, and other resources about reducing waste.

Give each student an index card. Have the students use the provided resources to record 3 facts about reducing waste.

3. Come together to play class jeopardy on basic recycling facts/

### After your visit:

1. Ask students about their impressions about their visit to the SEC. Record these thoughts

2. Organize students into groups. Have the groups decide on one thing that was important to them about the visit.

Have each group write their own script for a 60 second video about their chosen aspect of the SEC.

Go around and record each group (or allow groups to film themselves, based on resources and ability)

3. Once each "episode" is filmed, arrange the classroom into a recyclable friendly movie theater (hand towels instead of napkins, popcorn in recycled bags, etc.)

We will watch each film.

Come together as a class when the films are finished to analyze the information.