

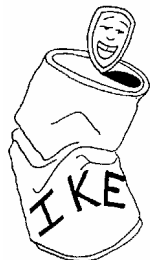
Illinois Kids for the Earth



Volume 6, Issue 1

Winter 2003

Background for Teachers



Welcome to a new year of
Illinois Kids for the Earth (IKE)!!

This worksheet is offered through your local University of Illinois Extension. It is designed to enhance the reading, decision-making, and coordination skills of students in grades 2 and 3. These worksheets will be offered twice a year – fall and spring, just in time for Earth Day.

You can use the worksheet in a guided classroom setting or let your students use the worksheets independently.

On this *Background for Teachers* page you will find additional information that you can use to expand upon the information contained in the worksheets.

Objectives of this Issue:

1. To introduce the idea of stewardship of our environment to your students
2. To identify one method of caring for birds during winter months
3. To promote awareness of recycling

Page 1:

Words to Remember

Each issue of IKE features 3 to 4 words to remember taken from the text to help students increase their vocabulary. You can select other words that will help them understand the environmental concepts.

IKE introduces himself

In the text of the introduction, IKE wants to remind each student to recycle. He will be watching for them on each page and asks if the students can find him. He can be found as a big IKE on the front page; on page 2, he is looking for the pinecone; page 3, he is hiding behind “Share What You Learn”; and, page 4, he is in the lower left section of the page explaining the recycling symbol.

Page 2:

Helping IKE feed the birds

This is a fun page to give the students the opportunity to increase eye-hand-reasoning skills by working their way through the maze. If you would like other mazes, please call 217-347-5126 and we will send them to you.

Page 3:

Stewardship

The idea of stewardship is one that will help young people understand the importance of being “friend” to our environment. Relate to them how feeding and caring for a pet is a form of stewardship. They are caring for an animal that cannot take care of itself.

They are helping to provide for the animal's **habitat**. Some wildlife adjusts to urban settings and survives very well (i.e. squirrels and robins) while species such as quail, wild turkey, or salamanders have special habitat requirements.

Have your students share ways they can be good stewards of the world around them.

Young people are being good stewards when they:

- ◆ pick up trash,
- ◆ recycle garbage,
- ◆ conserve water,
- ◆ compost leaves in the fall of the year, and
- ◆ feed and care for wildlife in the winter.

Page 4:

Word Search

Almost everything in our environment can be used or reused in some form. Discuss with your students 1.) the importance of reducing the amount of items that have to be thrown away by not always going out and buying new things, using what is already there, and substitute one thing for another 2.) how to reuse things that may be thrown away 3.) how and what can be recycled 4.) the importance of rethinking our buying habits.

Kids and their families can reduce the garbage problem by practicing the 4 R's:

Reduce

- ◆ Reduce the amount of waste you create by buying products in bulk that are not excessively packaged.
- ◆ Use both sides of the paper for schoolwork, letter writing, and art projects.
- ◆ Help reduce junk mail by asking to be removed from junk mailing lists. Write to:
Direct Market Association
6 East 43rd Street
New York, NY 10017
- ◆ Leave grass clippings on the lawn to reduce your yard waste. Grass blades are lawn food. As they decompose, they return nutrients to the soil.

Reuse

- ◆ Use reusable tote bags for groceries.
- ◆ Take a lunch box or reusable lunch bag to school. Use insulated jugs and reusable sandwich containers.
- ◆ Encourage your school to use washable, reusable trays, plates, bowls, glasses, and utensils rather than disposable ones.
- ◆ Make art projects, games, and toys out of recycled or reused materials. Used milk containers make great bird feeders.
- ◆ Use shredded newspaper for kitty litter and animal bedding.

Recycle

- ◆ Call your local recycling center to find out what materials are being recycled in your town.
- ◆ Encourage your family to save bottles, cans, jars, and newspapers. Take them to your local recycling center or put them out at the curb if your community is one that has a curbside recycling program.
- ◆ Buy products made from recycled materials. Look for the recycling symbol—three arrows in a circle (chasing each other).

Rethink

- ◆ Change your way of thinking about what you buy, where you buy, and how you buy.

Any Questions?

If you have any questions or comments, contact your local Extension office or the educator listed on the back of the worksheet.



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION

College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

Pat Hildebrand, Consumer & Family Economics Educator
Bill Million, Extension Specialist, Illinois State 4-H Office

University of Illinois Extension, Effingham Center
1209 Wenthe Drive
Effingham, IL 62401 (217) 347-5126

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