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Zero Waste Lesson Plan

Objective:

To educate primary school students about zero waste principles and practical applications through engaging and hands-on activities. The lesson will focus on paper recycling, upcycling plastic bottles, and making homemade lip balm, all while emphasizing environmental stewardship.

Lesson Plan

Materials Needed:

Paper Recycling and Making Greetings for Women's Day:

1. Used paper (newspapers, old notebooks, etc.)
2. Blender or manual paper shredder
3. Water
4. Wooden frames with mesh (for making paper)
5. Sponges
6. Towels
7. Paints, markers, and other decorative items

Making Flowers from Plastic Bottles:

1. Empty plastic bottles
2. Scissors
3. Acrylic paint
4. Paintbrushes
5. Hot glue gun (with supervision)
6. Green pipe cleaners or straws (for stems)

Making Lip Balm:

1. Beeswax pellets
 2. Coconut oil
 3. Essential oils (optional)
 4. Small containers (lip balm tubes or small jars)
 5. Double boiler (or a microwave-safe bowl and microwave)
 6. Mixing spoons
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Activity 1: Paper Recycling and Making Greetings for Women's Day

Duration: 45 minutes

Steps:

Introduction (10 minutes):

1. Discuss the importance of recycling paper and how it helps reduce waste and save trees.
2. Explain the activity: making recycled paper and turning it into greeting cards for Women's Day.

Paper Recycling Process (20 minutes):

1. **Shredding:** Have students tear used paper into small pieces.
2. **Blending:** Blend the paper pieces with water to create a pulp.
3. **Molding:** Pour the pulp onto the wooden frames with mesh to form sheets of paper.
4. **Pressing:** Use sponges to press out excess water and then carefully lift the new paper onto towels to dry.

Decorating Greeting Cards (15 minutes):

1. Once the recycled paper is dry, students can cut and decorate it to make greeting cards.
2. Provide paints, markers, and other decorative items for students to create personalized Women's Day messages.

Learning Outcome: Students will understand the paper recycling process and create a useful item from waste.

Activity 2: Making Flowers from Plastic Bottles

Duration: 45 minutes

Steps:

Introduction (10 minutes):

1. Talk about plastic pollution and the importance of reusing plastic items.
2. Explain that they will be making flowers from plastic bottles.

Crafting Plastic Flowers (30 minutes):

1. **Cutting:** Show students how to cut the bottom part of the plastic bottles to form the flower petals.
2. **Painting:** Allow students to paint the petals with acrylic paint.
3. **Assembling:** Once the paint is dry, glue the petals together to form a flower and attach a green pipe cleaner or straw as the stem.

Showcase and Discussion (5 minutes):

1. Display the plastic flowers and discuss other ways to reuse plastic items at home.

Learning Outcome: Students will learn about upcycling plastic waste and creatively repurpose plastic bottles.

Activity 3: Making Lip Balm

Duration: 45 minutes

Steps:

Introduction (10 minutes):

1. Discuss the concept of DIY (Do-It-Yourself) and its benefits, including reducing packaging waste.
2. Explain that they will be making their own lip balm.

Making Lip Balm (30 minutes):

1. **Melting:** With supervision, melt beeswax pellets and coconut oil in a double boiler.
2. **Mixing:** Add a few drops of essential oils for fragrance, if desired.
3. **Pouring:** Pour the mixture into small containers and allow it to cool and solidify.

Conclusion and Takeaways (5 minutes):

1. Discuss the importance of using natural ingredients and avoiding plastic packaging.
2. Encourage students to share their homemade lip balm with family and friends.

Learning Outcome: Students will understand the basics of making personal care products and the environmental impact of reducing packaging waste.

Activity 4: Making Wallets from Milk and Juice Cartons

Duration: 45 minutes

Steps:

Introduction (10 minutes):

1. Explain the importance of reusing materials like milk and juice cartons instead of throwing them away.
2. Introduce the activity of making wallets from these cartons.

Creating Wallets (30 minutes):

1. **Preparation:** Clean and dry the cartons thoroughly.
2. **Cutting:** Flatten the carton and cut it to the desired wallet size, typically keeping the original folds for structure.
3. **Folding:** Demonstrate how to fold the carton into a wallet shape, including pockets for cards and cash.
4. **Securing:** Attach Velcro strips or buttons to keep the wallet closed.
5. **Decorating:** Allow students to decorate their wallets with markers, stickers, washi tape, or other items.

Showcase and Discussion (5 minutes):

1. Let students show their finished wallets and discuss other creative uses for household waste.

Learning Outcome: Students will learn how to creatively repurpose everyday waste materials into practical items.

Wrap-Up and Reflection

Duration: 10 minutes

Steps:

Review (5 minutes):

1. Summarize the activities and reinforce the concepts of recycling, upcycling, and DIY.
2. Ask students what they learned and how they can apply these practices at home.

Feedback and Sharing (5 minutes):

1. Allow students to share their favorite part of the lesson and any ideas they have for future zero waste projects.

Assessment:

- Observe student participation and engagement during activities.
- Evaluate the final products (greeting cards, plastic flowers, lip balm) for creativity and effort.
- Use discussion to assess understanding of zero waste concepts.

By engaging students in these practical activities, they will not only learn about the importance of zero waste but also gain hands-on experience in creating something valuable from waste materials.

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