



MRF ACTIVITIES FOR THE CLASSROOM

FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

Thank you for your visit to the MRF! We hope that you and your students found it both educational and fun. If you'd like to incorporate more recycling activities or lessons into your classroom, here are some below that would be a great start.

- **Did your class want to learn more about what can be put a compost, trash, or recycle bin?** Click here for a link that gives individuals an overview of what can and cannot be put in the recycle bin. Click here for a PDF that that gives individuals an overview of what can and cannot go into the curbside compost bin.
- **Did your class want to try and recycle and compost more?** Try the Waste-Free Lunch Challenge! For the first day students will need to collect all the waste from their lunches and determine what belongs in the trash, the recycle bin, and compost bin. Then, students can come up with ways to have a lunch where less ends up in the trash (through recyclable or reusable containers, composting, etc). Students can then put their ideas to the test and see who can have a waste-free lunch on a future day of their choosing. It allows students to explore what can be recyclable, while also taking a look at how much "stuff" they throw out. You can even weigh the various bins to see which weighs more! More information and tools can be found on the EPA's Waste Free Lunch site here.
- **Did your class enjoy looking at the mural and the kids "in" the landfill?** Then take a look at the *WasteWatcher* comic series! This would be a great way to incorporate language arts along with environmental science in your classroom. Each comic discusses a various recycling related issue, from electronic waste to compost. You could even have your students make their own recycling superhero. Click here to access archived issues and have your students begin exploring what kind of environmental hero they would like to be!
- **Did your class enjoy the idea of composting some of their food waste?** Think about starting a class worm bin! Building a classroom worm bin allows students to see up close and personal what can happen to their lunch "trash" when nature takes its course. Your class can experiment what the worms like to eat most, discover what uninvited critters show up, and see what the process of decomposition looks (and feels!) like first hand. An easy to follow, step-by-step guide on how to set up a worm bin can be found here.



Looking for even more activities on other subjects? Feel free to e-mail mrftours@ecocenter.org for additional activities or information.