



Sustainability

Curriculum links:

- **Science** Environmental awareness and care
- **Geography** Human environments
- **SPHE** Myself and the wider world

Lesson objectives:

To introduce students to the concept of sustainability. To illustrate the important role of every individual in ensuring that resources like clean water and food are available now and for future generations.

Teacher guidelines

It is suggested that the teacher introduces the students to the vocabulary and basic concept before starting the lesson.

Keywords:

environment food future recycle earth air water energy

Sustainability

The earth provides us with fresh air, clean water and food. In order for the world to provide everybody on earth with this forever, we need to use these resources responsibly. This means sharing with each other and not taking more than our share.

Being green

The energy that we use each day to get to school, prepare dinner or brush our teeth all comes from the environment.

As the earth's population is constantly growing, more people need to share the energy that is available. There is more demand than ever for water, wood to build houses, food, land and fuel.

Being green means playing our part in protecting the earth. Companies, factories and schools work to be environmentally friendly through many different activities. There are three main methods that they use to do this, which are known as the **3 R's**: **Reduce**: this means using less of something, for example walking instead of using the car to go to the shop; **Reuse**: bringing your re-usable shopping bags to the shop every day; **Recycle**: Recycle using food waste to produce compost to help plants grow. By being green and doing our bit for the environment, we help the earth to provide all that we need from it easily, creating a clean and safe environment to live in.

Remember: REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Reduce Reuse Recycle

Any item with the recycling symbol on it means that it is recyclable and can be disposed of in your recycling rubbish collection.



Recycling symbol



Suggested activities:

- Photocopy the activity sheet on page 58
- Create a poster with the earth in the centre, draw arrows leading to smaller pictures identifying things that we get from the earth
- Make a list of things in the classroom that use energy and discuss what could be done to ensure that they do not waste energy (i.e. ensure interactive whiteboards/lpads are fully powered off after use)
- Create a green checklist to be completed over one week-identify ways in which students use energy and make a checklist, add a tick to the checklist each time they do something to reduce, reuse or recycle
- During art class, set a task to make an object using only recyclable materials
- Create 'care instructions' for earth, based on what the class have learned about protecting the environment
- For extension material, see Modules 2, 3 and 4

Learning outcomes:

At the end of this lesson, students should understand that we rely on the earth for fresh air, food and water. Students should also understand how important it is to ensure that the earth is able to produce these resources for future generations, and that our actions will determine whether these resources are available for future generations.

Additional resources:

- www.agriaware.ie
- www.origingreen.ie

Developed in consultation with:

BORD BIA
IRISH FOOD BOARD



Working
with nature



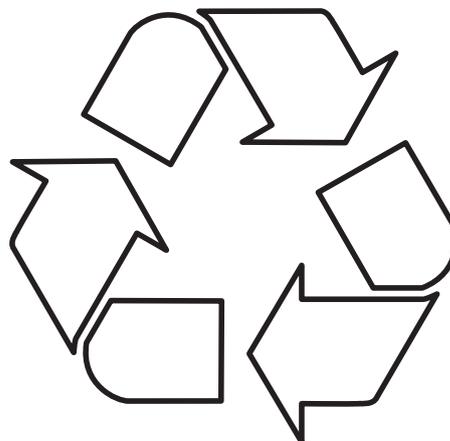
Sustainability

Name: _____

Date: _____

- 1** Colour in this picture which shows the 3 R's that are important for the earth

REDUCE
 REUSE
 RECYCLE



- 2** Draw a picture of you saving energy at home or in school



* To be used with teacher guidelines, page 36