

Lesson 6

Waste Not–Want Not



Objectives:

1. To understand and appreciate the value of our natural resources.
2. To understand the value of responsible choices in protecting our natural resources.
3. To understand the stresses that a vast population places on natural resources.
4. To understand that wise use of wood—nature’s renewable, recyclable, energy efficient, and biodegradable resource—lessens the stress on all our other natural resources.
5. To understand that each of us has choices to make in how to use natural resources. It is up to us not to waste what we have and to make sure that what we use is renewable, whenever possible.



Focus:

1. Establish the concept of individual responsibility by discussing with the students what are some natural resources. See the examples below:

- **minerals, water, trees, ores**

What are people doing to protect natural resources?

- **Being careful not to waste water**
- **Buying things that can be recycled or reused**
- **Recycling at home**
- **Conserving energy at home by turning out lights when not in a room**
- **Raising the thermostat during the summer**
- **Lowering the thermostat in winter**
- **Planting trees that lose their leaves in autumn so they will give shade in summer and let the sun through in winter**
- **Insulating the house well**
- **Choosing items made from renewable resources**

Subjects:

1. Consumer Awareness
2. Ecology
3. History
4. Reading



CONTINUED ON REVERSE SIDE

Vocabulary:

1. **Renewable:** having the capability of replenishing itself.
2. **Recyclable:** being able to be utilized again, often by being restructured into something else.
3. **Biodegradable:** being able to be broken down or decomposed by natural means.
4. **Natural Resources:** things we use that come from the earth
5. **Landfills:** places in our communities where garbage is unloaded and then covered over with dirt and packed down.
6. **Decompose:** to decay or come apart.
7. **Organic:** material made of carbon; made of living matter.
8. **Compost:** a collection of organic scraps and garbage that decomposes and becomes good fertilizer.

VOCABULARY

What are the students in the class, along with their families, doing to protect our natural resources?

- **Recycling in the classroom and at work**
- **Planting trees on the school grounds**
- **Using both sides of the paper**
- **Sharing books and other resources**

How does Mother Nature recycle?

- **By decomposing things that have died or come apart**

- 2.** Have the students read the selection **Waste Not—Want Not** to establish the concept of responsible usage and disposal of things in our society. Preface the reading by asking them to guess what the title

means. To what does it refer?

- **In Colonial times this was a way of saying that if we don't waste things that we have, they will be there for us when we need them.**

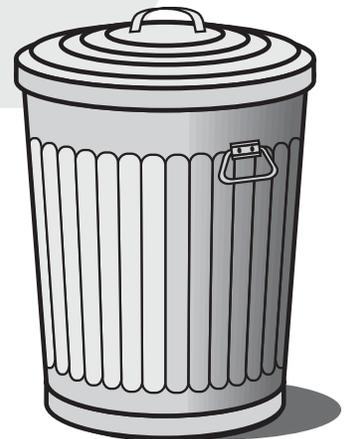
- 3.** After reading the selection, have the students use the circled words in the story to help unscramble the words in the review puzzle for Lesson 6.



ANSWER KEY ■ **ENVIRONMENTAL ANAGRAM**

All of the words below deal with protecting and preserving our natural resources. Unscramble them using the circled words in the story as your guide.

1. **C C Y E E L R D – RECYCLED**
2. **U R E E S D – RE-USED**
3. **N W B E R E L A E – RENEWABLE**
4. **I O D B B E G A R L D A E – BIODEGRADABLE**
5. **D L L S A L N I F – LANDFILLS**
6. **M C T O O P S – COMPOST**
7. **G O R A C I N – ORGANIC**
8. **C E D O P M S O E – DECOMPOSE**
9. **S I T R E S B I L I P O N Y – RESPONSIBILITY**





Name _____

Waste Not— Want Not

First read the story. Then use the circled words to decode the Environmental Anagram.

America is blessed with many natural resources. These are things that nature provides for our use and enjoyment. The forest is one of our major natural resources. We are lucky to have a great many forests and trees, but we need to be careful how we use them.

In America, we use more paper than anywhere else in the world. Each of us uses almost 700 pounds of paper a year. Where does it all go? You guessed it—landfills. About four out of every ten solid things put into landfills are made of paper, and most of that is newspapers.

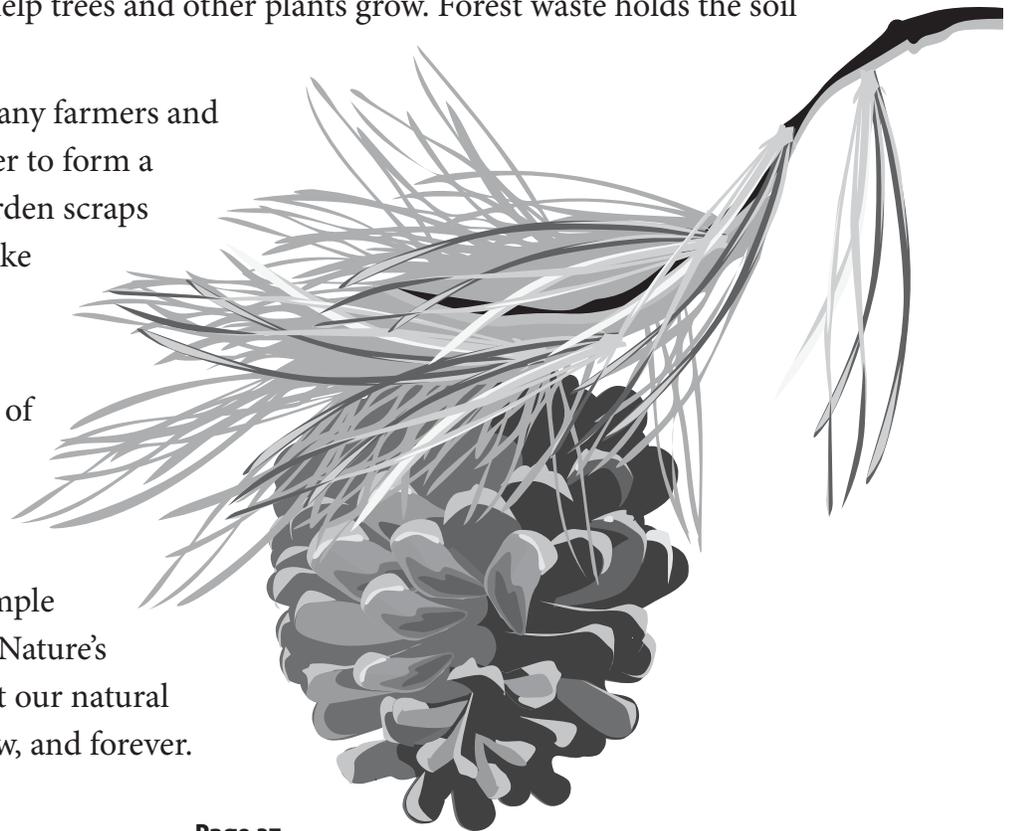
Luckily, Americans know they must show responsibility by making wise choices to protect our natural resources. One way is by recycling. We have learned that many products can be recycled to make other items. About a quarter of all the paper that is made in the U.S. today is made from re-used paper.

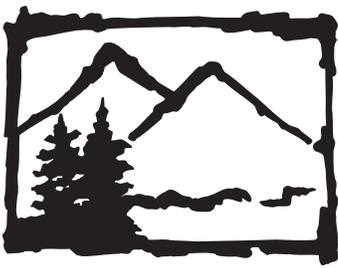
Americans have also learned that if we make things from a resource that is renewable, like trees, that resource will grow back. It will be available to use again and again. Things made out of ores, such as steel or aluminum, or out of petroleum products, like plastics, are not renewable. Once the ores or petroleum sources are used up, they are gone forever. Most of these products are also not biodegradable.

Even Mother Nature recycles. Pine needles, cones, leaves, dead trees and plants may seem like useless forest waste, but they are really important to the forest. These bits of organic matter fall to the ground. With the help of sunlight, air, water, bacteria, worms, and insects, forest waste begins to decay and decompose. As it breaks down, the waste acts as a fertilizer to help trees and other plants grow. Forest waste holds the soil together to prevent erosion.

People now imitate Mother Nature. Many farmers and gardeners stack organic matter together to form a compost pile. In this pile, food and garden scraps will decay and produce fertilizer just like forest litter does in the woods.

Our natural resources are a wonderful gift. We need to use them wisely. Each of us should try to follow the “Three Rs” whenever possible. Can you guess what they are? Renew, Recycle, and Responsible Use. If we follow those simple guidelines, we all will be able to enjoy Nature’s Treasure Chest and still make sure that our natural resources are available today, tomorrow, and forever.





 **Name** _____

All of the words below deal with protecting and preserving our natural resources. Unscramble them using the circled words in the story as your guide.

Environmental Anagram

1. CCYEELRD

2. UREESD

3. NWBERELAE

4. IODBBEGARLDAE

5. DLLSALNIF

6. MCTOOPS

7. GORACIN

8. CEDOPMSOE

9. SITRESBILIPONY

