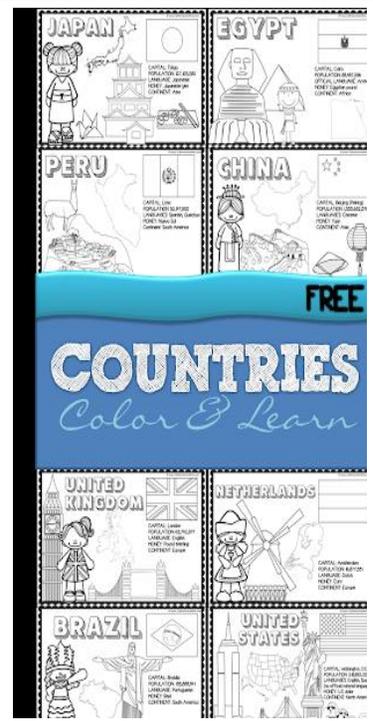


Fun with Recyclables – Gather flyers, newspapers or any papers from your recycle bin and have the children fold them into paper airplanes. Have the children each make several airplanes and then set up your recycle bin (or other large size container) for the children to use as a target. Set up a timer and see how many each child can get in the bin in 1 min. Save your egg carton containers, have the children color each hole and then add numbers inside (10, 20, 30 points...). Provide the children with large juice lids, pom poms or blocks to throw into the carton. Adjust the games to fit the skill levels of the children in care (Accred. Standard 2.1 b – Incorporate inclusive practices to involve all children in the program)



Dramatic Play – Pool Noodle Garden – You will need: pool noodles regular and contoured – for the “flowers”, Bread knife, measuring tape, Glue gun, Box (a lid from a box of printer paper worked well), popsicle sticks, Sharp knife, Brown fabric, Packing tape. Start with the box lid, measure the dimensions of the box and use the bread knife to cut the pool noodles to fit inside. Next, hot glue the pool noodles in the bottom of the box then lay the brown fabric over the top and tuck it in on the sides and in between the noodles. To make the “flowers” use your bread knife to slice off pieces of the contoured pool noodle. Then, use your sharp knife to cut a slit in the bottom of each flower- the same size as a popsicle stick. Next, insert a craft stick into the bottom of each “flower” and then “plant” in your garden! Decorate with a border for the outside of the box and veggie signs if you like, the play food is available at IKEA. Idea courtesy of www.pre-kpages.com **Dramatic Play**

Celebrate Earth Day with the children in your care by sharing with them some of the countries that make up the world. Use a world map or a globe to point out where we live and ahead of time ask parents if they want to share information about another country that they have visited, lived in or were born in. This is a great opportunity to discuss cultural backgrounds and share special traditions. We are all citizens of the Earth and we each need to look after it. Visit www.123homeschool4me.com/free-18-countries-of-world-book-30 for a free printable book of countries.



Recycle Centre – Creating a recycling centre for the children to interact with is an awesome way to teach about recycling as well as, talking about community helpers. Create signs with words and pictures and attach them to different baskets: “Paper”, “Plastic”, “Cardboard”, “Metal” for the children to sort. Add vehicles for the garbage and recycle trucks and discuss what the difference is. Talk about how recyclables can be repurposed into something else later rather than becoming other than trash and sitting in a landfill.



Virtually every piece of plastic that was ever made still exists in some shape or form (with the exception of the small amount that has been incinerated).

Nearly TWO MILLION single-use plastic bags are distributed worldwide every minute.

www.earthday.org

April 2019 – Earth Day is an annual event created to celebrate the planet's environment and raise public awareness about pollution. It is celebrated on April 22. Discuss with your day home children ways that we can treat the Earth better, whether it is through recycling more, picking up trash at the park, donating items to be reused again or starting your own garden. Everyone can make the Earth a better place no matter how old or young or how big or small. Accred. Standard 2.1 C “Incorporate inclusive practices to involve all children in the program”.

Endangered Animals – Children often have a favorite animal that they become excited and passionate about. They often want to become experts on their favorite animal, so why not help them learn as much as they can:

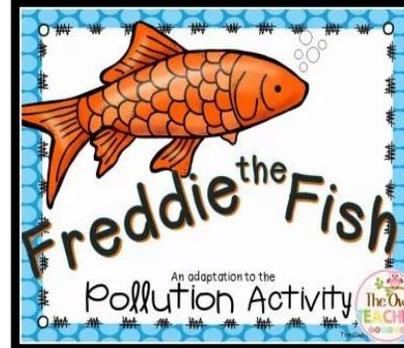
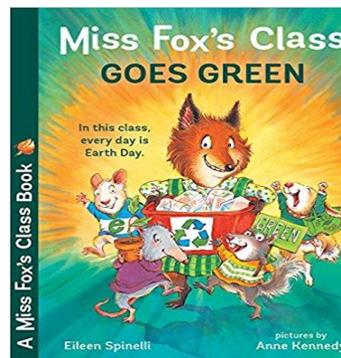
- Visit your local Library to find fiction and non-fiction books about animals.
- Plan a trip to the Edmonton Valley Zoo or if that is not possible write a letter to the Veterinarians and Zookeepers there and see if they are able to answer your questions.
- Talk about Endangered Animals and how many species are facing extinction. Explain that extinction of an animal or plant species happens when there are no more individuals of that species alive anywhere in the world - the species has died out. Sometimes extinction is a natural part of evolution but, due to pollution from humans, extinction is happening at a much faster rate than usual.
- Create a notebook or collage all about the child's favorite animal. Gather information together about its habitat (mountains, desert, what continent), the food it eats (are they the predator or the prey) and whether or not it is endangered?
- Get a world map and mark where everyone's favorite animal can be found.

Pollution – This is a great visual activity that demonstrates how a person's poor choice can affect ocean life. You will need: Sponges (cut into the shape of a fish) and a clear plastic container for each child. To create the different “Pollutants” that the little fish must swim through you can use non-toxic items (like grass cuttings, salt, rocks, dirt, dish soap, water with food coloring added, coffee grounds, syrup, shredded paper) Visit <https://theowlteacher.com/polluting-fish-for-earth-day-or-any-day/> for a free story and booklet that goes along with this activity. Or create your own story about how this little fish must go on a journey and along the way he must travel through dirty water (allow the children to pour the pollutants on the fish), discuss how the fish looks and might feel from the beginning to the end of his journey. Brainstorm with children ways that people can keep the oceans and rivers cleaner. “Did you know as many as 1,000,000 sea creatures die every year due to ingesting plastic, mainly plastic bags that are thrown into the ocean” www.gvicanada.ca



Check out these excellent books all about loving the Earth

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| “Heal the Earth” | By Julian Lennon |
| “Don’t Throw that Away” | By Lara Bergen |
| “The Curious Garden” | By Peter Brown |
| “Miss Fox’s Class Goes Green” | By Eileen Spinelli |
| “Why Should I Save Water?” | By Jen Green |
| “10 Things That I Can Do To Help My World” | By Mary McKenna Siddles |
| “Compost Stew: An A to Z Recipe for the Earth | By Melanie Walsh |



500 MILLION plastic straws are used **EVERY DAY** in America. That's enough to circle the Earth **twice!!!**