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Warm-Up Activity

Recycling

Length: 10 minutes.

Learning and Achievement Objectives:

To mobilise students' attention in the beginning of the class and introduce the topic, develop students' oral language skills as well as critical thinking.

Rationale:

In the beginning of the class, students often are sleepy and not attentive. In order to “wake them up” and put them in a working mood, I begin my class with a warm-up activity. It is also a good way to introduce the topic.

PHASE	Minutes	DESCRIPTION	Grouping
INTRO	10		
	1	Play the song and dance; encourage students to get up and dance too: The Three R's - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wtoeZ9Nkeqk	Teacher and whole class
MAIN	3	Ask SS to guess what the lesson's topic is. Help them if necessary. Put the word recycling on the board. Put SS in pairs or small groups. Give the groups a number with a number tag. Distribute the bags with recycling items. Instruct SS to come up with ideas for the recyclables to be reused. Put the question on the board: <i>How can we reuse this?</i> Tell SS that the best idea will receive a prize.	Whole class Pairs/small groups

		While SS are working, put the group numbers on the board and draw columns for each group.	
CLOSE	6	<p>Ask SS to take turns and share their ideas with the class. Instruct other SS to take notes (write down the number of the group with the best idea).</p> <p>Find out who the winner is: Ask SS to go to the board and put a check mark in the column of the group they have chosen. Count the checkmarks. The group with the highest number of checkmarks is the winner.</p> <p>Give the prize to the winner group.</p>	Whole class
Materials I need		Board; Computer with Internet access/MP3 player with the song; number tags; 3-5 bags with some recyclables (egg cartons; plastic containers for fruit/veggies; plastic water bottles, etc.); prize (chocolate medal/recycling bag, etc.)	
Questions I want to ask		<p>What do you usually do with such stuff? From now on, are you going to use any of these ideas? Is there a government recycling program in your country?</p> <p>Vocabulary questions: What similarity have you noticed in these three words reuse, reduce, recycle? What is the meaning of the prefix re-? What do we reduce when we recycle? Do you know other words with this prefix?</p>	

Comments: This is a good warm-up activity for a lesson on recycling or environmental issues in general. Within ten minutes, students become physically and mentally active and ready for the lesson. It builds on students' creativity, activates their oral language skills as well as critical thinking.