Unit 6

Earth's Resources

Introduction

Today's preschoolers deserve to grow up in a healthy, clean environment. Encourage them to do their part to take care of Earth. At this center, they will:

- **identify recyclable materials**
- **observe Earth's natural resources**
- **experiment with properties of water.**

Earth's Resources #1

Recycling

Young children can be involved in recycling objects in the classroom as well as identifying simple ways that they can conserve resources and energy each day.

Learning Objectives:

- The student will practice reusing, recycling, and conserving energy each day.
- The student will sort objects that can be recycled.

Recommended Supplies:

- Recycling bin
- Objects that can be recycled. Examples include: empty water bottle, cereal box, newspaper, soda can, etc.
- Scrap paper box

Procedure:

1. Ask students to bring in objects from home that can be recycled.
2. Sort the objects into 4 groups: paper, metal, plastic, and glass.
3. Make a list of things that the students can do to conserve energy and resources in the classroom (scrap paper box, 1 paper towel, turn off lights, etc.)

Book Recommendations:

What if Everybody Did That? by Ellen Javernick

Recycle! by Gail Gibbons

Why Should I Recycle? by Jen Green

Michael Recycle by Ellie Bethel

Earth's Resources #2

Soil & Worms

Are worms gross or gorgeous? Let preschoolers be the judge of that as they observe worms and learn more about how important they are to soil and plants.

Recommended Supplies:

Soil – Go outside and dig some soil to observe at the science center.

Earthworms – Dig them up and bring them inside (or purchase a few nightcrawlers at a local sporting shop)

Procedure:

1. Ask students if they've ever seen or held a worm? Where do worms live?
2. Involve the students in digging up some soil and worms.
3. Display the worms at the science center. Encourage students to observe them and observe the way that they move in the soil.
4. Talk about how important worms are to the soil.

Learning Objectives:

- The student will observe soil and worms and describe what they notice.
- The student will describe basic life processes and the importance of soil.

Book Recommendations:

Worm Weather by Jean Taft
Diary of a Worm by Doreen Cronin
Wonderful Worms by Linda Glaser
It's a Good Thing there are Earthworms by Jodie Shepherd

Earth's Resources #3

Our Oceans

Oceans make up more than 70% of Earth's surface and contain 99% of the living space on the planet. Help your preschoolers learn more about oceans at this center.

Learning Objectives:

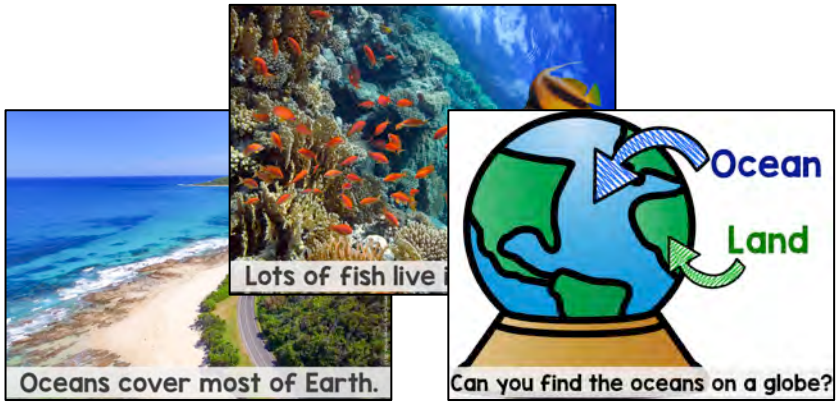
- The student will observe and describe properties of things that come from the ocean.
- The student will separate objects into 2 groups, based on their properties.

Recommended Supplies:

Make an ocean display:

- seashells
- sand
- starfish
- sand dollar
- coral
- toy fish/shark
- salt water

Globe



Procedure:

1. Display the ocean items. Ask students what the items have in common. Allow the students time to observe the ocean display and books.
2. Look at the globe and notice the blue oceans. How much of the planet is covered in ocean?
3. Encourage students to express why it is important to take care of our oceans.

Book Recommendations:

Commotion in the Ocean by Giles Andreae

Over in the Ocean: In a Coral Reef by Mariane Berkes

I'm the Biggest thing in the Ocean by Kevin Sherry

Way Down Deep in the Deep Blue Sea by Jan Peck

Earth's Resources #4

Oil & Water

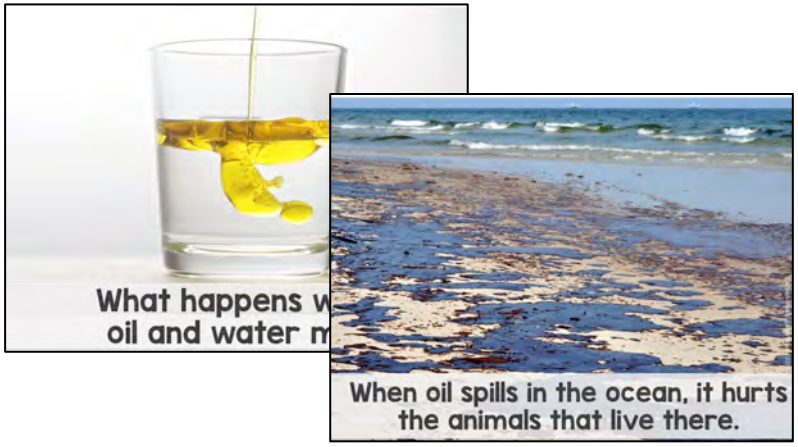
Children are naturally curious about water. Encourage a deeper understanding of the properties of water by setting up this oil and water exploration.

Learning Objectives:

- The student will observe the interaction of water and oil.
- The student will talk about the importance of keeping the oceans clean.

Recommended Supplies:

- small cup of water (no more than half full)
- small cup of cooking oil (no more than half full)
- eye dropper or medicine dropper
- paper towels



Procedure:

1. Encourage students to predict what will happen if they mix a few drops of oil into the cup of water.
2. Allow students time to test their predictions and make observations. Discuss what happens.
3. Ask students what they think would happen if a lot of oil spilled into the ocean? What would happed to the animals that live there?

Book Recommendations:

Oil Spill! by Melvin Berger

Roscoe and the Pelican Rescue by Lynn Rowe Reed

These Seas Count! by Alison Formento

Earth's Resources #5

Absorption

"Absorb" is such a peculiar word. Young students will enjoy saying it, and also enjoy experimenting with different items that either absorb or don't absorb water.

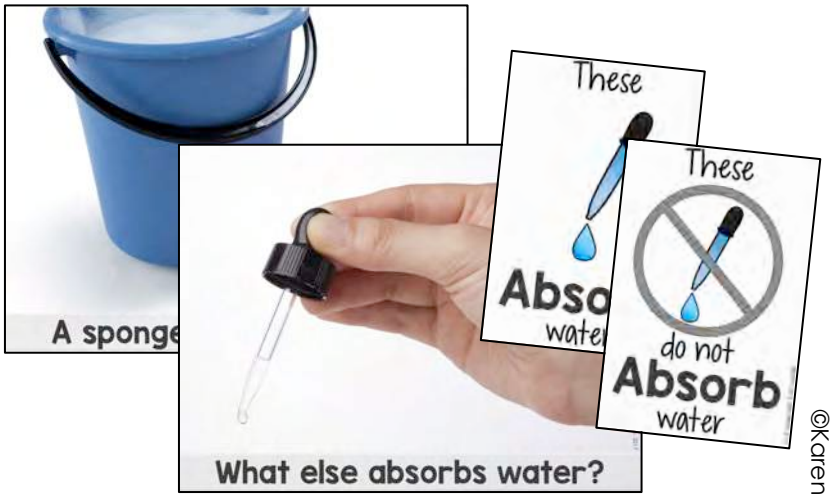
Learning Objectives:

- The student will use the vocabulary word "absorb."
- The student will make predictions, then test to confirm or reject them.

Recommended Supplies:

- small cup of water
- eye dropper
- assortment of objects including:

tissue	aluminum foil	copy paper	cotton ball
sponge	baby diaper	feather	coin
wax paper	foam sheet	wooden block	newspaper



Procedure:

1. Practice saying the word "absorb" with the students. Have they ever heard the word? Do they know what it means? (Absorb means to soak up.)
2. Make a prediction about which objects will absorb water and which will not.
3. Invite students to test their predictions by dripping water onto each object.
4. Sort the objects into 2 groups: Absorbs or does not Absorb.

Book Recommendation:

Does it Absorb or Repel Liquid? by Cynthia O'Brien