

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

Recycling

Preparation

Overview and Objectives

This lesson is geared toward students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Participants will learn about recycling and the ways that sailors on *Intrepid* reused materials. They will be able to compare their own recycling practices to those of Navy sailors. Facilitators will encourage participants to think about the similarities and differences between life on board a Navy ship and life on land.

This lesson includes a [slideshow](#) in which an instructor can lead participants through an overview of recycling on land and on *Intrepid*, a video about conservation of resources on board submarines, and a painting activity.

Instructional Modalities

This activity was designed for both synchronous or asynchronous instruction.

For **synchronous instruction**, we recommend a platform that allows both for whole class discussion and for students to interact in small groups.

For **asynchronous adaptations**, we provide suggestions for teachers to provide additional support for the activities and for students to share their work with each other.

Materials

- [Recycling slideshow](#)
- [Visual Instructions](#)
- Old markers
- Cups
- Paintbrush
- Paper
- Water

Discussion

Questions

What do you recycle at home?

Why is it important to recycle?

Lesson

1. Introductory Activity

- Educator will introduce the three Rs and the definitions of recycling and reusing.
- Participants will share things that they recycle or ways that they reuse at home or in their communities. Depending on the city, state, or municipality, participants' communities may have certain rules about what you can and cannot recycle.
 - **How do you reuse things in your home or school?**
 - **Why is recycling important?**

2. Core Activity

- Participants will explore some ways that the Navy reuses and recycles.
- Show participants the photo of a mess tray.
 - **What do you notice about this object?**
 - **What could it have been used for?**
 - **Have you used an object like this before?**
- Explain that while on land, we may use disposable trays or cutlery in large cafeterias, the Navy uses metal trays for eating. These can be washed and reused!
- Show participants the photo of the mess deck, or cafeteria on board *Intrepid*.
 - **What do you notice about the mess deck?**
 - **What colors and designs decorate the mess deck?**
- Explain to participants that sailors had used red and yellow paint to paint two different parts of the ship. When they were designing the mess deck, they wanted a new color.
 - **What color do you get when you mix red and yellow?**
- Introduce participants to the importance of water in the Navy.
 - **How do you use water every day?**
 - **Do you do anything to conserve, or protect, your water supply?**
- Participants will watch a one and a half minute video about water conservation on the submarine *Growler*.
 - **Why did sailors on *Growler* have to make these adjustments to their water use?**
 - **Why is water important?**

3. Wrap Up Activity

- Participants will reuse old markers and paper to create a watercolor painting. They will follow the [visual instructions](#) to create their own watercolor paints and then make a painting of their own.
- Participants can use their homemade watercolors to make a decoration, card, or even wrapping paper!

Asynchronous Adaptation

Have participants go through the [slideshow](#) on their own and create their own [watercolor painting](#).

Extension Activities

To deepen student engagement with this content, you may choose to add the following activities:

Reuse Challenge: Rain Collection

Save water and use recyclable materials to collect rain!

Rain can be used to water indoor houseplants, instead of using tap water.



For this project you will need an empty, clean jar, a permanent marker, masking tape, and a ruler.



First, put a piece of tape across one side of the jar.

Then, mark the length of tape with measurements using the permanent marker. We recommend measuring rain in centimeters (CM).



Finally, place your rain gauge outside someplace safe. Remember to take off the top!

Additional Resources/ References

Rainfall Resources:

Compare your results to the average monthly rainfall in your state at the [National Weather Service](#).

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