

# Reduce Reuse Recycle

Lesson can act as a stand-alone for students in Grades 2-4, or as a follow up to Needs vs. Wants for K-2 students

01

*\*If you are doing this activity as a follow up to Needs vs. Wants then you can go straight to Step 2!\**

See if students can identify & explain the difference between what a **need** is vs. what a **want** is! For instance, we might need shoes, but want a new certain fancy brand! Go through some examples to distinguish the difference.



02

Introduce the concept of **natural resources** by explaining that these are raw materials (things that come straight from nature) that we take from the environment.

- Go over a few examples (clothes are made of cotton from cotton plants, books are made of wood from trees, plastics are made from oil) and see if kids can find a few examples on their own by looking around your home!
- Discuss how some natural resources can continue to be grown and replenished, like wood from trees, whereas others have a limited supply, like oil!

# Reduce Reuse Recycle

03

Talk about how by weighing our wants and needs, students can help protect Earth's natural resources! The less we buy & use that we don't need, the more resources remain.

04

*\*If you are doing this activity as a follow up to Needs vs. Wants then skip this step & go on to step 5\**

- Watch the [\*\*Happiness Video\*\*](#) & have a discussion about why Clementine was the happiest at the end
- Discuss the fact that the boys didn't know or care what was in their cart, so why would this not make them as happy as Clementine?

05

Watch the [\*\*Garbage Video\*\*](#) and ask students to try to find something in Oliver's garbage that someone else might want!

Ask: How does his experience compare to what happened in the Happiness Video?

06

Brainstorm different ways that you could share or recycle things that you don't need anymore.

**Put it into action!** Find or write down 3 things that don't make you happy anymore, and think about:

- how it could make someone else happy?
- how could it be turned into something different that you need, or makes you happy?