

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.

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?

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?

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?