

EARTH'S RESOURCES

CONSUMPTION – CONSERVATION – PRESERVATION

Objective: Students will demonstrate the difference between resource consumption, conservation, and preservation.

Illinois State Goals: 12.E.

Top Book Hits:

Exploring Your Environment; ISBN-13: 978-2-7641-2188-7

The Abcs of Habitats (Abcs of the Natural World) by Bobbie Kalman;

ISBN-13: 978-0778734314



Materials Needed:

- small piece of candy for each student (Tootsie Roll, Hershey's Kiss, etc.)

Procedure:

In our efforts to protect the environment we sometimes confuse the terms conserve and preserve. This activity is designed to help students understand the difference between conservation, preservation, and consumption.

1. Give each person a piece of candy with instructions not to do anything with it yet.
2. Divide them into three groups by numbering off 1, 2, 3.
3. Tell Group 1 that they may eat their candy. They represent **consumption** – the utilization of the resource.
4. Tell Group 2 that they have to make their candy last by unwrapping it slowly, eating small bites, licking on it, savoring it, etc. They represent **conservation** – the careful use of the resource.
5. Tell Group 3 that they get to admire their candy but they cannot eat it. Ask them to admire the wrapper, the shape, the smell, etc. They represent **preservation** – saving of the resource for the future.
6. Finish by letting them know that there is a place for all of these concepts in our world. Have students think and discuss these concepts as they relate to more specific scenarios. Possible scenarios could include prairies, water, trees, soil, land use, and habitats. *Consider utilizing Top 40 Hits Lesson #5 From Bluestem and Bison to Corn and Cattle located in this booklet.*

As with many areas of decision making, there are no right and wrong answers. Students are encouraged to examine different aspects or viewpoints of the situation, make their decision, and then defend that decision.

Explore More: Backyard Conservation <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/backyard/>
Illinois mAGic Kit - Science Lesson 2 – Saving IL Soil from Going Downhill & Lines on the Land available through local agricultural literacy coordinator.