

## Post-Visit Lesson: *Making a Difference*



### At a Glance:

In this post-visit lesson, students discuss what they have learned about the importance of the Responsible Rs, waste diversion, and the City of Tucson's recycling program, and how they can make a difference in their everyday lives. They consider ways to share their knowledge to inspire others to take action as well. Finally, students complete the fun and engaging activities and watch the related videos in the *Talking Trash in Tucson Learning Guide*.

### Arizona Department of Education Academic Standards:

Please refer to the Arizona Department of Education Academic Standards section for the ADE standards addressed by this lesson.

### Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- describe how they can take action and make a difference by implementing the Responsible Rs and waste diversion in their lives.

### Materials:

- Talking Trash in Tucson Learning Guide* (one per student, provided at the end of the *Talking Trash in Tucson* classroom presentation)

### Procedure:

- Ask students how they can use what they have learned from the *Talking Trash in Tucson* classroom presentation and how they can use that information in their everyday lives. Responses should include a variety of ways to refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle, reimagine the waste they produce at home, school or in the community, and the benefits of doing so, such as
  - In Tucson, we can recycle paper, cardboard, aluminum and steel cans, and plastic bottles, jugs, and containers.
  - Bring your recyclables to a Neighborhood Recycling Center if a Blue Barrel is not available: [tucsonaz.gov/es/neighborhood-recycling-centers](http://tucsonaz.gov/es/neighborhood-recycling-centers).
  - Compost food scraps and yard trimmings.
  - Bring your own reusable shopping bags when you go shopping.
  - Plastic bags can be recycled at some stores, but NOT in the Blue Barrel.
  - Glass food and beverage bottles and jars can no longer be recycled in the City of Tucson; bring them to large purple containers at drop-off sites around Tucson: [tucsonaz.gov/es/announcement/glass-reuse-plan](http://tucsonaz.gov/es/announcement/glass-reuse-plan).
  - Use reusable water bottles.
  - Recycling saves natural resources such as trees, oil, and metal.
  - Recycling saves landfill space, saves money, and reduces pollution.

## Post-Visit Lesson: Making a Difference *(continued)*

2. Remind students that at the end of the *Talking Trash in Tucson* classroom presentation they wrote on their whiteboards about one simple thing they could each do to make a difference in their decisions related to the waste they generate. Have students share a few of their behavior changes with the class. Ask students how successful they have been following through with their suggested behavior changes or actions. Encourage them to keep up the good work or try a little harder in their recycling efforts, as needed.
3. Explain to students that their actions or behavior changes may seem simple or small, but when multiplied by many people, they can add up and really make a difference, not just in Tucson, but around the world. Ask students to think of ways they can share what they have learned with others, and instill in others the need to take action and change behavior. Responses may include sharing what they learned at school with family members at home, being in charge of recycling at home or school, helping families shop responsibly (e.g., by purchasing recyclable products, products that are made from recycled materials, or products that have less packaging; by using durable, reusable grocery bags instead of paper or plastic bags), and teaching younger students at school the importance of the 3Rs.
4. After the *Talking Trash in Tucson* classroom presentation, distribute the *Talking Trash in Tucson Learning Guide* to each student. Have students work on their Learning Guides during class or at home. Remind students that there are QR Codes and URLs for numerous videos throughout the Learning Guide. Show the videos to students in class and/or encourage students to watch the videos at home.

### Extension Ideas:

- Make posters about the Responsible Rs, waste diversion, and the City of Tucson's recycling program to display in your classroom, around school library, cafeteria, hallways, on your class or school website, or in the school news letter.
- There are a variety of ways students can take a more active role in managing the waste they generate. Get started using the following websites as inspiration:
  - [www.epa.gov/students](http://www.epa.gov/students)
  - [www.dosomething.org](http://www.dosomething.org)