

Recycling in Senegal

Lesson Plan by Amy Barsanti

Overview Students will explore the relationship between manmade and natural resources and how recycling and repurposing can contribute to economics and cultural identities in Senegal. They will create their own toys from recycled materials.

Essential Questions

Why do people recycle?

How can people reuse materials to make something new?

Grade Level K-2

Content Area(s) Social Studies (Science is supplementary for Grade 1)

Alignment with NC Standards

K.G.2 Understand interactions between humans and the environment.


K.G.2.1 Explain ways people around the world use natural resources.

1.G.2 Understand interactions between humans and the environment in different places and regions around the world.

2.E.1 Understand how the availability of resources impacts economic decisions.

1.L.1.3 Summarize ways that humans protect their environment and/or improve conditions for the growth of the plants and animals that live there. (e.g., reuse or recycle products to avoid littering.)


Materials

- Slide Show-  Senegal LP Recycling
- Chart paper to record notes/observations
- Paper and pencils
- Book: *Galimoto* by Karen Lynn Williams OR read-aloud [video](#)
- Recyclable materials (i.e. boxes, cardboard, corks, lids, bottles, tissue tubes, etc.)
- Glue (you may need to use a glue gun or other adhesives that only you will handle)

Suggested Length of Time three 45 minute sessions

Procedure

Session 1

1. Ask students what they know about recycling. Do you recycle in your home or at school?
2. Brainstorm and review with students what they know about recycling and resources. Review the difference between recycling items industrially and upcycling them to make new objects in which the original materials are identifiable. (Note: Depending on your age group, you may choose to chart the differences between manmade vs. natural resources or recyclable vs. landfill materials.)
3. Tell students that you will be sharing examples of items made or collected by people in Senegal who make money by selling these items. Show the [slides](#) and encourage students to make observations about what they see (see the notes on each slide for more information about each piece). Questions to consider with students:
 - a. What is this piece made of?
 - b. What tools did the artist need to create this piece?
 - c. What could this piece be used for?
4. Explain that the book you are going to share takes place in Malawi, but that the story could take place in many parts of the world, and children making their own toys is common in Senegal. Read aloud [Galimoto](#) by Karen Lynn Williams, or share the video:  Mrs. Dalizu reads Karen Lynn Williams' "Galimoto" .
5. Show slides 2, 6 and 8 again, and have students make connections between the items and the book, and share observations.
6. Summarize the lesson by asking students what they learned about recycled materials in Senegal. Record their ideas on chart paper to revisit in following lessons.

Session 2

1. Review the observations recorded in the first session, and show the pictures from the book, encouraging students to share what they remember.
2. Explain to students that they will be making their own toys using recycled materials, like the galimoto. Show students the materials you have gathered and have them brainstorm ideas about what they could make. Record their ideas on chart paper.
3. Provide blank paper for students to sketch their plans for their own recycled toy. On their paper, have them brainstorm a list of materials they will need to create

their toy, as well as the tools they will need to create it. Collect their papers for use in the following lesson.

Session 3

1. Distribute students' sketches for their recycled toys. Remind them to use their sketch and their brainstormed materials and tools lists as a guide.
2. Supervise and assist students as they make their toys.
3. As students work, you may choose to play [African music](#) in the background.
4. When students are finished, allow time to present their work with others.

Optional Extension Have students share their creations in presentations, or infomercials for older students.