



Activity Summary:

Students create a fridge magnet with a conservation message and picture.

Objectives:

- For students to create a visual reminder for themselves about conservation commitments to the environment.

Activity Time:

20-30 minutes

Setting:

 Classroom

Materials: cardstock paper or construction paper, scissors, crayons, pencil crayons, paints, a thin marker, glue, magnet strips (business supply shops sell packs of business-shaped magnets and magnetic strips)

Grade Levels:

 1 to 4

Subject Areas: Art, English

My Eco-Magnet

1. Introduce the concept of Earth Day and how people use this day to think about our planet and how we need to protect the environment, conserve, recycle, and not pollute. (*This activity can be done not just on Earth Day but at any time of year when discussing concepts of stewardship.*) Teachers talk about the role of visual reminders such as signs, ads, banners and explain that an eco-magnet is something similar. The message students place on the magnet is something important to them!

2. Students draw and cut a shape that will be glued onto the magnet (triangle, square, circle). The shape can be cut out of heavy cardboard that will be directly glued onto the magnet, or a lighter piece of paper that is laminated and then glued onto the magnet. The shape should not be too large, just a bit bigger than the magnet backing. *Note: Students can draw directly onto some of the business card shaped magnets with permanent fine markers.*

3. Students draw a picture and write a conservation message onto the paper shape they have cut out for their magnet. The picture should be of the environment, an animal they want to protect, or a conservation action like recycling or turning off the lights. Students choose from some of the following sample messages or create their own. Space is limited so the conservation message should be short.



4. Students glue their messages and pictures onto the magnet. If the teachers are laminating the paper, this is done prior to gluing the shape onto the magnet.

Other fun ideas:

Have students create an Eco-Badge that is similar to the magnet. The badge can be attached by a safety pin or by putting holes through the paper and using string to make a necklace.

Have students create Eco-Postcards and mail them to friends or family members.