

# Making Your Own Bio-degradable Planter

**Objective** The student will gain an understanding of the importance of recycling while making a bio-degradable planter for use in plant units.

**Grade Level** 1-3 4-6

## TEKS:

1.10C; 2.10B; 3.11A

4.10A

## TAKS:

### GRADE

### OBJECTIVES

Reading 3, 4, 5, 6

1

Science 5

1, 2, 3

Math 3, 4, 5, 6

1, 2, 3

## Assessment Summary:

**Materials:** Large plastic bowl, egg beater or wire whisk, lots of newspaper, large styrofoam or disposable plastic cups, water, electric blender (optional)

## Background Information

Students can make bio-degradable pots for planting their seeds. The pots are made by mixing water and newspaper and letting it soak until a mushy paste is formed. The mixture is then molded to the inside of a large Styrofoam or disposable plastic cup. It is allowed to dry and then the cup is peeled away leaving a pot that can be filled with potting soil and used as a planter. When the plants get big enough they can be transplanted outside or to larger pot by setting the plant, pot and all into the new planting medium.

Several of the lessons included in the resource guide call for planting seeds. It is suggested that the teacher have each student make several planter pots for use during the course of the year.

# Making Your Own Bio-degradable Planter Pot

## Lesson Plan

1. Introduce new vocabulary:

Grades 1-3

Grades 4-6

recycling

bio-degradable

2. Arrange students in groups of 3 to 4 per group.
3. Have students tear newspaper into very small pieces. (1x1 squares)
4. Place the pieces of newspaper in the plastic bowl.
5. Pour warm water into the bowl (1 cup per bowl), and have students start mixing with egg beater or wire whisk. (Approximately 10 minutes) A blender works well if you want to mix the paper paste up ahead of time.
6. Let mixture sit for about 30 minutes. While mixture is sitting, discuss with the students "why it is important to recycle."
7. After mixture has set for 30 minutes, drain extra water and mix again for 5 minutes. The mixture will look like gray mush when it is ready.
8. Pass out a Styrofoam or plastic cup to each student. Tell students to start with putting a small handful of the paper mush in their cup. They need to start mashing the mush along the insides of the cup. Continue to do this until students have a layer of mush molded to the inside of the cup.
9. Let dry for 2 days.
10. Very carefully begin to tear the cup away from the recycled paper pot, and throw the plastic or Styrofoam away in the trash.

## Extension

- Plant seeds and watch them germinate. Next record progress in a journal book.
- Transplant into a school garden or larger pot. Keep recording progress of plants in journal book.