Go Green Board Game

Background

Making environmentally friendly decisions can be far reaching; recycling can prevent trash dumps from expanding, and carpooling can reduce the amount of carbon in the atmosphere. These lessons are encouraged in Science in Personal and Social Perspectives Content Standard F of the National Science Education Standards, and in the American Association for the Advancement of Science Benchmarks for Climate Literacy Section 7-B on Global Interdependence, which suggest introducing care for the environment to students as young as kindergarten through second grade. This game reinforces that students can make “green” decisions, and that each decision, no matter how small, does make a difference.

How to Play

Attach all of the game pieces to their corresponding photos on the board. Ask the student to look at each pair of pictures and decide which picture represents a more “green” decision. They remove their "green" choice from the board. If it's the right answer, the photo behind will be shaded in green; the less green option is shown in black and white. Watch out because the green image can peak through if the pieces aren't lined up just right.

Suggested Introduction

Do you think it is important to be healthy? Well just like you make certain decisions, such as exercising and eating right, to stay healthy, there are also decisions we can make to keep the Earth healthy too! Keeping the Earth safe and clean is important because it is the only Earth we have. Lets play a game to learn new ways to keep Earth healthy!

Game Answers

- **Tuned-up, fuel efficient car (hybrid) VS regular car**

  Here are two cars. One is fuel-efficient (uses less gasoline) and has low emissions – the other is in need of a tune-up. Burning gasoline leads to release of exhaust, which is made of up carbon. Too much carbon in our atmosphere can cause heat from the sun to be trapped on Earth, making it warmer. Based on that information, which do you think is the more green option? (**Answer**: The fuel-efficient car/hybrid)

  That’s right! The less carbon the better, especially because the Earth might change in ways we don’t expect if the climate gets warmer as a result of increased carbon in the atmosphere.

- **Disposable water bottles VS reusable water bottle**

  When you buy a pack of bottled water from the grocery store, most people dispose of each bottle after they have finished drinking it. On the other hand, some people rinse and reuse the same water bottle after each drink. Which do you think is the more green option? Why? (**Answer**: It is more environmentally friendly to reuse the same water bottle because even though the other bottles can be recycled, it takes a lot of energy to produce so many bottles.)

- **House lights on VS house lights off**

  Lets pretend your entire family is downstairs in this house watching television together. Closely compare the two houses, and tell me which house shows that a green decision was made. (**Answer**: The house that only has lights on in the room the family is in is greener. Leaving lights on in rooms that you aren't using wastes electricity, resulting in irreplaceable fossil fuels to be used. Be sure to turn off lights when you leave each room!)

- **Incandescent bulb VS fluorescent bulb**

  Do you know what the difference between these two light bulbs is? The spiraled bulb is called a fluorescent bulb, and the other is called an incandescent bulb. The fluorescent bulb is four times more efficient, and last up to 10 times longer than an incandescent bulb. This means 50 to 80 percent less energy use. Which bulb do you think is a greener choice? (**Answer**: fluorescent)*. Why?* (**Answer**: Saving energy means saving fossil fuels, which also means less carbon in our atmosphere)*.*

- **Recycling receptacle VS trash pile**

  If you have plastic water or soda bottles, which is the greener way to dispose of them? (**Answer**: Recycle them!)

  Throwing recyclables in the trash will not only make expand our already growing landfills. Recycling, on the other hand, allows us to reuse the plastic from the bottles and turn that into something we can use, rather than letting the bottles take up room at a dump.

- **Faucet running VS faucet off**
  Can you see what the difference is between these two pictures? (**Answer**: The water is still running in that picture!)

  When you are brushing your teeth, which is the more green decision? (**Answer**: To leave the water off!)

You are right! It is important to conserve water because we do not have an endless supply. 97 percent of all the water on the earth is salt water, which is not suitable for drinking. Only three percent of all the water is fresh water, and only one percent is available for drinking water. The other two percent is frozen in ice caps and glaciers. That means we have to share that one percent with the entire planet!

- **House with solar panels VS house without solar panels**

  Do you see the difference between these too houses? One of them has something called solar panels attached to the roof. Do you know how solar panels work? They collect energy from the sun and transfer that energy into your house for you to use. The other house uses regular electricity, which comes from burning fossil fuels. Which do you think is a more green decision? (**Answer**: Using solar panels!)

- **Carpool symbol VS traffic jam**

  Do you recognize this symbol (pointing to carpool photo). It means in order to drive in this lane, there must be more than one person, and sometimes more than two people in the car. Another word for people driving together in one car is "carpooling." The other option is taking separate cars to the same destination. Which option is greener? (**Answer**: Carpooling!)

  That's right! Fewer cars on the road means less carbon being put into the atmosphere. Do you ever ride the school bus? That's an example of carpooling!

Suggested Conclusion

There are a lot of small decisions that we can make everyday that help the Earth stay healthy. NASA is monitoring how our Earth changes when we make these decisions, and we are able to tell how healthy planet is. You and your family can your part to make Earth a cleaner, greener place!