



Overview: Students will decide how they can take charge and make a difference to reduce the amount of garbage they make by writing and committing to one or more actions they can achieve that will help reduce waste at home or school.

Grades: 3-12

Time: 20 minutes

Materials:

- "Pledge to Waste Nothing" handout (one per student)
- Drawing tools (crayons, colored pencils, etc.) if students want to draw a picture to represent their pledged action.

Procedure:

- Discuss with the class why they think it is important to reduce waste (examples include conserving natural resources, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and creating less waste that ends up in the landfill).
- As a class, brainstorm ways students can reduce waste (examples: only buying what you need, using less stuff, packing lunch in reusable containers, using both sides of a sheet of paper and then recycling it, donating old clothes, avoid buying snacks with excessive packaging, and compost or use the green bin for all food scraps and yard trimmings).
- Hand out one pledge form to each student; or, have them use a page in their science or other journal, have students sign a large class pledge for the classroom wall, or another way that fits into your classroom structure.
- Have each student decide on one specific and achievable goal they can (and will!) do to reduce the amount of garbage they make at home or school. Next have students write a complete sentence that describes the action they will take.
- Optional: have students draw a picture that represents their action.
- Keep a copy of the students' pledges and in a set time (two weeks, one month, etc.) have students' show and tell their progress with their pledge.
- Have each student discuss with a partner why they feel this action will help to reduce the amount of garbage going to the landfill.
- Have students share with the class their pledge, how they plan on following through and then have students share updates throughout the year how they have followed through and/or expanded their pledge to reduce waste at home, school and at play.

Pledge to Waste Nothing!

There are many things that we can all do to WASTE NOTHING & reduce the amount of garbage we create. Describe below one thing you can do!

I want to make a difference!

Here is my pledge to Waste Nothing & reduce the amount of garbage I make:

Signed _____

Date _____

