

Earth-Friendly Picnic



Grade Level: Preschool- Adult

Time Needed: 30 minutes

Supplies: composting bucket, recycling container & small garbage bag

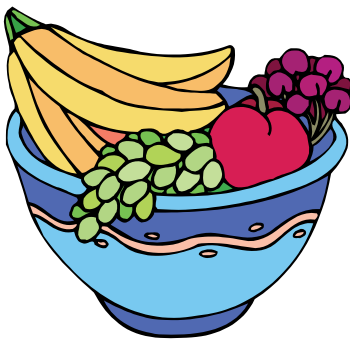
Location: School grounds, local park, or fieldtrip location

Objective: Students (and their parents) will pack a picnic lunch using a minimum of disposable items. After the picnic we will sort the waste into recyclables, items that can be composted (or fed to composting worms!) and garbage.

This can be the sole activity or part of a school fieldtrip. (The picnic works especially well after the students have participated in the *Redworms Eat My Garbage* program).

There are many ways to implement the ecological picnic- the two most popular picnics are listed here:

1. Go on two picnics. Do a typical sack lunch and then an ecological picnic and compare the waste.
 - After the first lunch, we can send a letter home with the students with tips for packing an earth-friendly lunch.
 - Depending on the age of the students and equipment, the class could weigh the garbage, recyclables, and organic material at each picnic and prepare charts to share their results.
2. Have a competition between two classes to see which class produces the smallest pile of garbage at a fieldtrip or sack lunch day.
 - Both teachers will work with their students, going over the ecological picnic tips. Prior to the picnic, students will take a note home with low-waste ideas.



- In the original curriculum, they included a *Friendship Salad*, where the children brought fresh or canned fruit (nothing on foam trays or wrapped in plastic). Adult volunteers can wash and chop the fruit to make a big fruit salad. Each student would need to bring a small dish and a spoon. After the picnic, all the watermelon rinds, apple cores and banana peels could be fed to the composting worms or placed in the compost bucket.