

**EARTH-FRIENDLY TIPS  
AND COMIC STRIPS**

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**Discussion and Activity Guide for Teachers  
Grades 2-6**

# Discussion Prompts

The following quotes and questions can be used as classroom conversation starters or as individual writing prompts for students.

*"In all things of nature, there is something of the marvelous."* – Aristotle

- Think of your favorite place in nature that you've visited. What do you see there?
- Why is it your favorite, and what makes it marvelous?

*"You are never too small to make a difference."* – Greta Thunberg

- Do you ever feel like you're too small to do something big or make a difference?
- What are three things you could do at home, that you don't do already, that are beneficial to the planet?

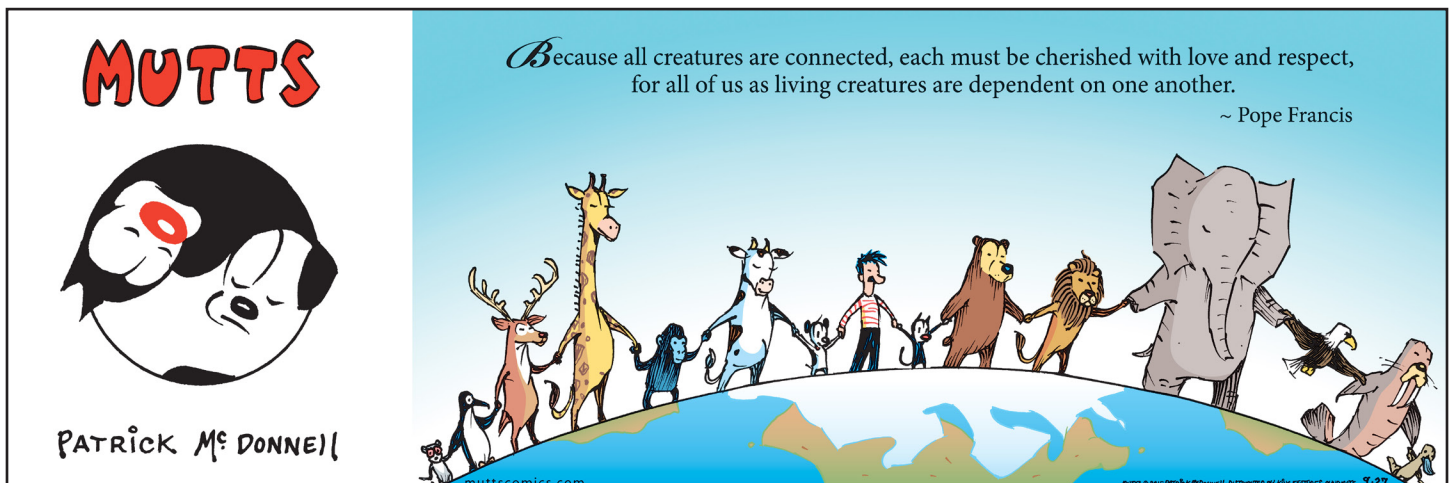
*"Some people talk to animals. Not many listen though. That's the problem."* – A.A. Milne

- What are some things you can do to be kind to animals?
- What do you think the animals of the planet would say if they could speak to us?

*"Open your eyes to the beauty around you. Open your mind to the wonders of life."*

– Dr. Maya Angelou

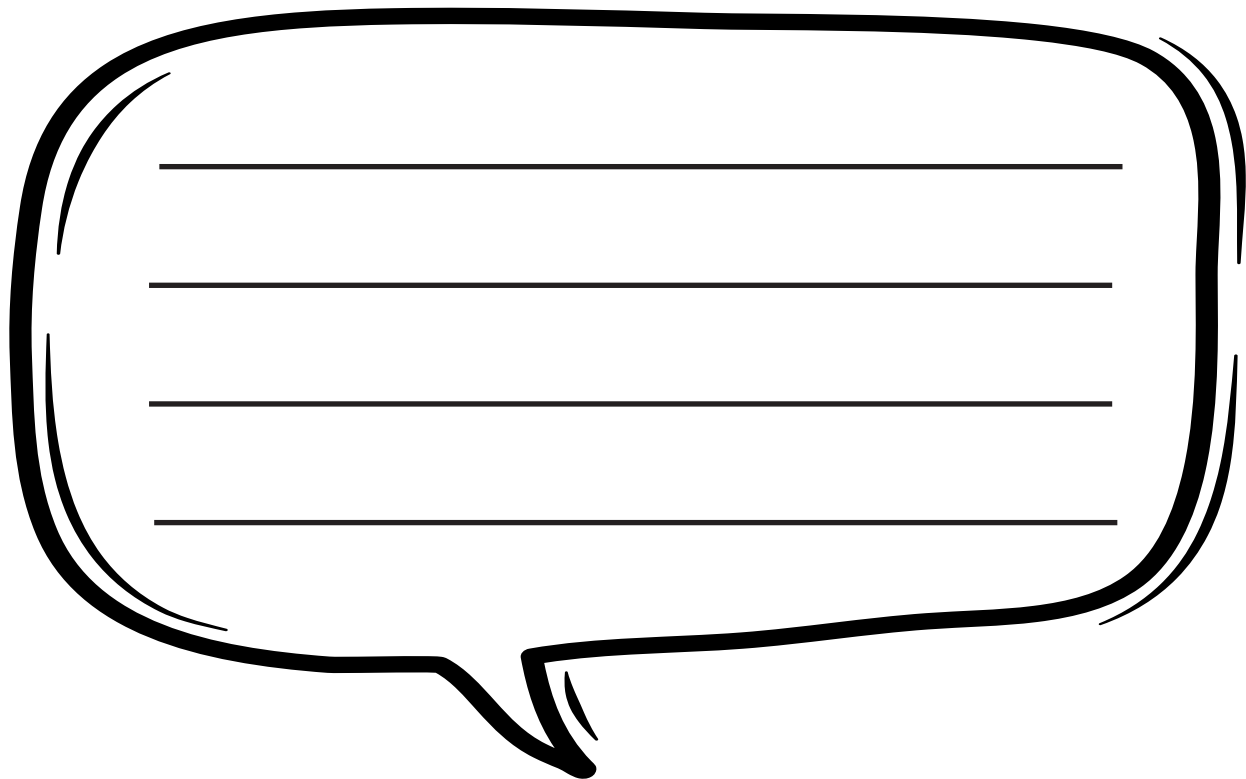
- What part of nature do you think is the most beautiful? Is it a type of flower? An animal? A place?
- If you could explore a place in nature that you've never seen before, where would you go?



Name:

Date:

**Directions:** In the space below, write the name of your favorite type of animal and explain why you think this animal should be protected. For example, you might share why this animal is unique or special to you, or you might think about any threats that this animal faces in the wild. (If you get stuck, try to think about the world from the animal's point of view!)

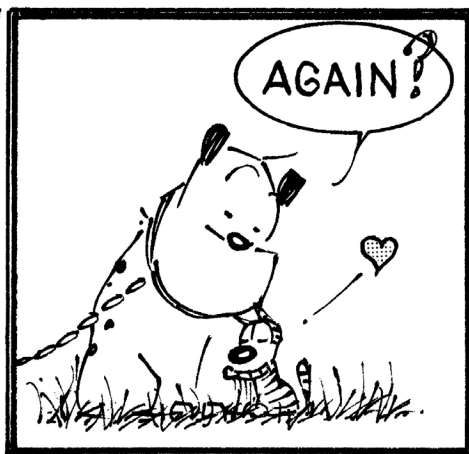
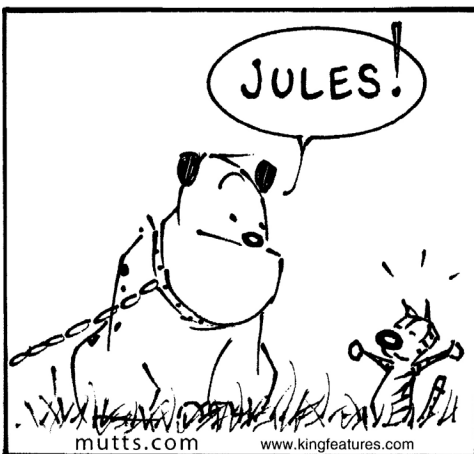


Name:

Date:

**Directions:** Think about the things you use in your daily life and the trash you throw away. With those items in mind, fill out the chart below.

Things I can...		
Reduce	Reuse	Recycle





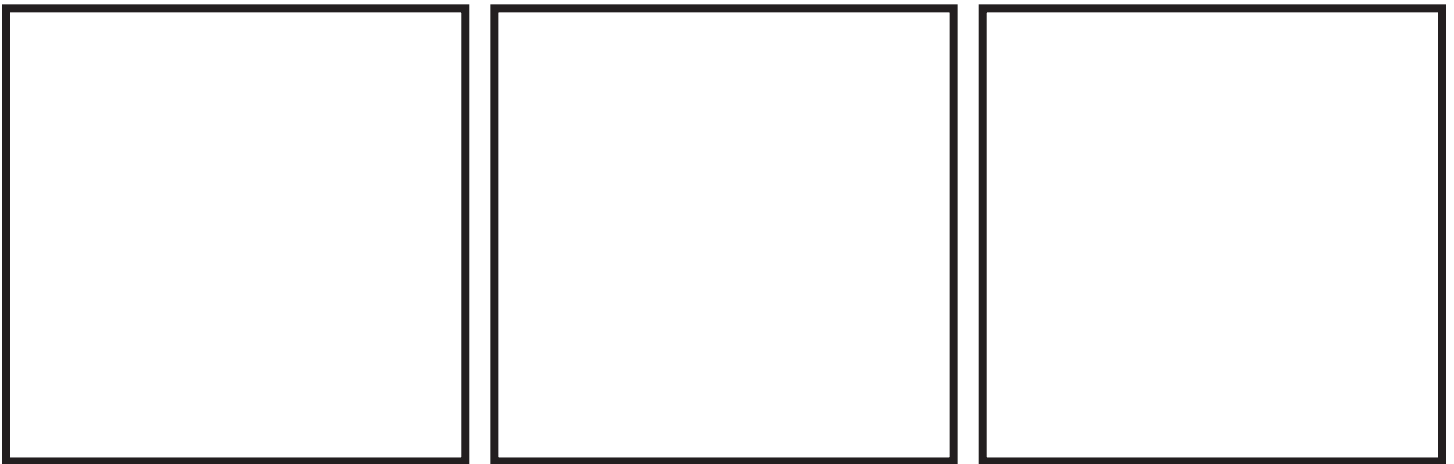
Name:

Date:

Directions: List five things you can start to do at school or at home that are good for the environment or for animals.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Now choose one of the items in your list and use the comic strip panels below to draw a comic starring yourself taking action.



# Class Activities

The following pages contain activities you can do within your classroom, or you can send a copy home with your students and encourage their families to participate. Each activity includes an explanation of how the activity is Earth-friendly, potential lesson plan pairings, a list of items needed, and instructions for completion.



**1. TO BE KIND.**



**2. TO BE PRESENT.**



**3. TO LOVE NATURE.**



**4. TO LOVE ALL ANIMALS.**



**5. HUMANS TOO.**



**6. TO KEEP IT SIMPLE.  
AND REAL.**



**7. TO ENCOURAGE  
RESCUES AND ADOPTIONS.**



**8. TO MAKE HUMANE CHOICES.**



**9. TO BE A POSITIVE FORCE.**



**10. TO BE MINDFUL  
OF THE BIGGER PICTURE.**



**11. TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS.**



**12. TO BRING SMILES TO  
EVERYONE EVERY DAY.**

## Recycled Goods Bird Feeders

Create a safe refuge in your yard (or outside a classroom window) by offering food, shelter, and water for our feathered friends! By offering bird feeders when natural food sources tend to be depleted — late in winter or early spring, during migration periods, and during extreme temperatures — you can show kindness to these beautiful creatures.

**You can pair this activity with lesson plans about:**

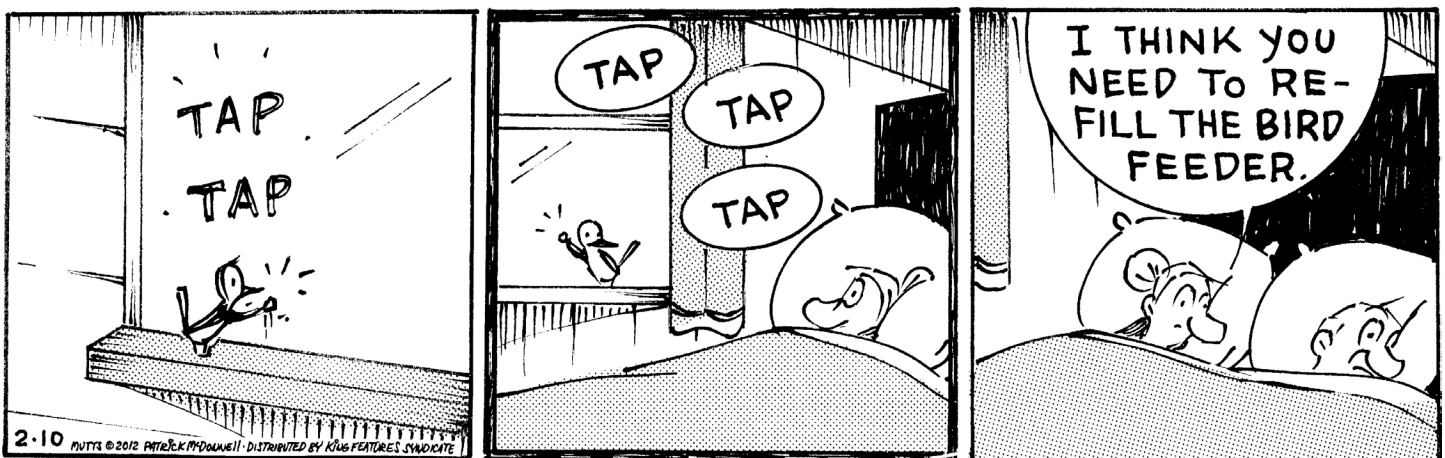
- Migratory patterns
- Bird identification
- Egg hatching cycle

**What You'll Need:**

- Clean juice or milk carton (paper)
- Scissors
- Twine
- Small twig or dowel (for perch)
- Bird seed

**Instructions:** Ensure your carton is clean and has no residue of the beverage it contained. Cut a window out of the carton, leaving enough space at the bottom to hold the bird seed. The window should be large enough that you can easily pour in bird seed and a bird can easily access it. Cut holes on either side of the top of the carton, and thread the twine through them, tying both ends of the twine together in a secure knot at the top. Cut a small hole below the window and insert the dowel or twig so the bird has a place to rest and perch while eating. Then fill the feeder with birdseed and hang outdoors for your feathered friends!

**Note:** Do not put human food in bird feeders. Avoid using plastic cartons or bottles, as the sharp edges created by cutting them may be harmful to children and birds alike. Finally, be sure to place your bird feeders within 12 feet of a tree or bush. This allows the birds to quickly retreat to safe cover if a predator appears.



## Park/Playground Pick-Up

Litter is not only unattractive, but it can also be dangerous for wild animals, who may mistake inedible items for food or become trapped in or harmed by certain objects. Additionally, litter that makes its way into water can pollute drinking sources and endanger aquatic animals and plants.

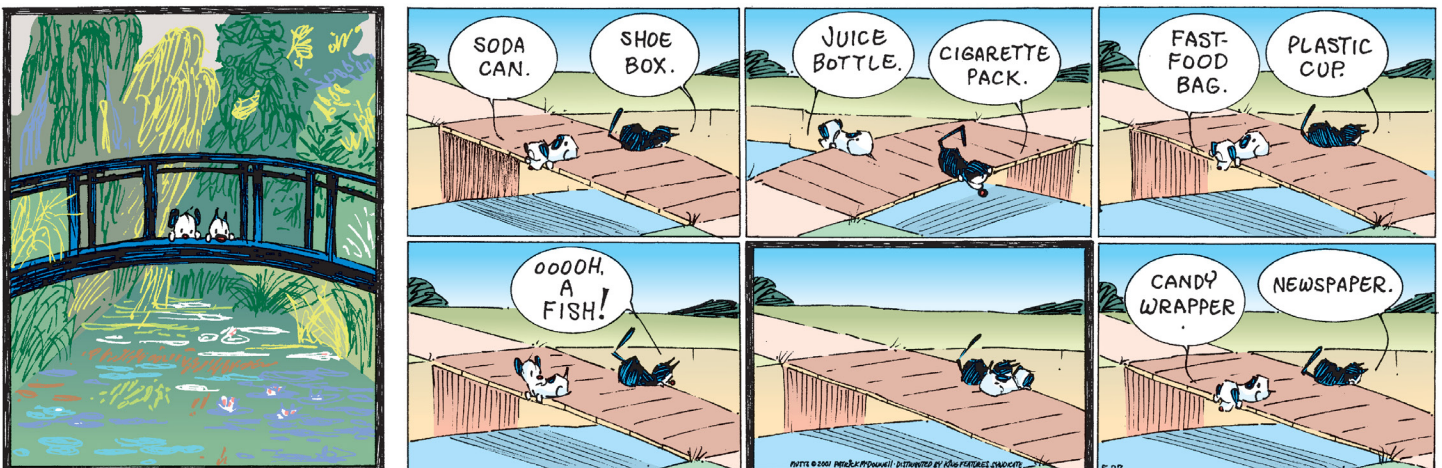
**You can pair this activity with lesson plans about:**

- Recycling
- Waste reduction
- Pollution

**What You'll Need:**

- Garbage bags
- Paper grocery bags
- Garden gloves

**Instructions:** Head to a park, playground, or public area that could use some love — and pick up any litter you see! Use gloves to protect against sharp or dirty items, and separate recyclables into paper bags rather than throwing them in with the landfill garbage. Turn it into a competition to see who can bag the most litter! Make it even more fun by building in play time, such as “50-10-Go!” The children play however they like for 50 minutes, then they have 10 minutes to pick up as much as they can.





## Wildflower Seed Balls

Wildflowers offer so much more than just their beauty. Wildflowers that are native to an area require less water and fertilizer to grow, are less susceptible to disease, and tend to be more tolerant of pests. But they are also a critical part of the ecosystem. They create a habitat for beneficial insects, provide a food source for pollinators, can help improve soil health, and can help prevent erosion.

### You can pair this activity with lesson plans about:

- Plant life cycle
- Pollination
- Erosion

### What You'll Need:

- A large bowl or bucket
- 1 cup of wildflower seeds\*
- 5 cups of garden soil or compost
- 2.5 cups of clay powder
- Water to mix

\*Use wildflower seeds or seed packets that are native to your region. Native wildflowers are best suited to your climate and the wildlife in the area.

**Instructions:** In your bowl or bucket, mix together the seeds, soil, and clay powder. Slowly mix in small amounts of water with your hands until the mixture sticks together — do not overwater as it will become too moist to form into shape. Roll the mixture into firm balls, then leave in the sun to dry or air-dry inside.

Once the seed balls are dry, drop them in any sunny areas that could use a little beauty or color. Check the weather and try to drop them before a rain shower so they can begin growing!

**Note:** Please plant responsibly. Do not drop seed balls on private property or in protected parks.

