

Sustainability Activity

Description:

Portion 24 Goldfish crackers into small paper cups ahead of time. Set up twice as many cups as the number of groups in the class. Each group of 4 students gets 1 plate and 1 cup of Goldfish crackers. Each student gets one straw.

Ingredients:

Paper plates = "lake"; one per each group

Goldfish crackers; 2 bags

Straws = "fishing rods"; one per student

Small paper cups: 2 per group

Candy or stickers

(to represent "Goods" that can be purchased with extra fish)

Directions:

Each person must capture 2 fish for their family to survive. If you catch more than 2 fish, you can sell them for other goods (a piece of candy, a sticker). You will have 15 seconds to fish by using the straw to suck up the fish and place it outside of the lake. You may not use the straw to flick or rake the fish out of the lake.

Key points:

- The fish will reproduce after each round by doubling the number of fish in the lake.
- The maximum number of fish a lake can hold is 24. (Introduces the idea of Carrying Capacity)
- In order for the fish population to remain stable, there must be at least four fish in the lake. (Introduces the idea of Endangered Species).

National Standards for Science

Grades 5-8 Standard C - Renewable vs. Non-Renewable, Renewable vs. Sustainable, Carrying Capacity can all be used when talking about populations, resources and environments.