

Aiming for Action

OBJECTIVE

Students will use hand-eye coordination and large muscle skills as they reinforce positive action choices that help endangered wildlife and habitats.

MATERIALS

- ❑ 10 half-gallon paper milk cartons
- ❑ red and green construction paper
- ❑ copies of pages 19 and 20
- ❑ six tennis balls



ACTION

1. Before class, cover four milk cartons with green paper and four milk cartons with red. Cut apart the action cards and tape one action card to each of two opposite sides of the appropriately colored milk carton.
2. Use the milk cartons to lead students in a discussion about how our actions can affect plants and animals. Begin by asking students to suggest activities they can do to help keep the planet healthy. If students suggest a positive activity that is listed on a green carton, hold it up. Also use the cartoon to suggest activities if students get stuck.
3. Continue discussion by holding a red milk carton and reading a card. Ask students if this is a positive action. Help them understand why not by reading the italicized text on the card.
4. As you read action statements, have students show a thumbs up for positive and thumbs down for negative. Can students guess which color means positive (green/go) and which color means negative (red/stop).
5. Now place the cartons side by side about 10 cm (4 in.) apart on the floor, alternating red with green. Place a piece of tape 3 m (10 ft.) away from the cartons.
6. Using the tennis balls, have students stand behind the tape line and roll the tennis balls to knock over the green cartons. Students will be aiming for positive actions.
7. Allow all students a chance to play the game. Frequently turn the cartons to display different messages.
8. To end the activity, ask students how they were able to knock down green cartons instead of red ones (they really concentrated on what they were doing). Explain how making good choices means stopping to think about how your actions will affect the world, wildlife, and people around you. Invite students to name one action they learned from the activity.

DEEPER DEPTHS

Let students build a home version of the game to play with family members. Copy *Action Statements* for students to cut and tape to colored milk cartons at home.

Action Statements

for green milk cartons

| | |
|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Don't buy ivory jewelry.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Ivory comes from elephant tusks. Elephants are being killed at an alarming rate. By not buying ivory, you are helping to save elephants.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Aiming for Action/ Action Statement – Green</i></p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Walk or ride your bike when possible.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>By not using a car, you'll help save fuel and create less air pollution.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Aiming for Action/ Action Statement – Green</i></p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Recycle glass, aluminum, paper and plastic.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Recycling keeps trash out of landfills.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Aiming for Action/ Action Statement – Green</i></p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Watch wildlife programs on TV.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Learning about wildlife is the first step to helping to save it.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Aiming for Action/ Action Statement – Green</i></p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Carpool.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sharing a ride with other people means we will use less fuel and create less air pollution.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Aiming for Action/ Action Statement – Green</i></p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Use cloth instead of paper napkins.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Paper napkins become trash in landfills, but cloth napkins can be washed with the rest of your laundry and used over and over again.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Aiming for Action/ Action Statement – Green</i></p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Use canvas or string bags when shopping.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>By using bags that can be used again, you are helping reduce the amount of trash on our planet.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Aiming for Action/ Action Statement – Green</i></p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Read articles and books about endangered wildlife.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Learning about wildlife is the first step to helping to save it.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Aiming for Action/ Action Statement – Green</i></p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Plant a tree.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Trees provide homes for many animals and create oxygen for us to breathe.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Aiming for Action/ Action Statement – Green</i></p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Turn off water while brushing teeth.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Saves water.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Aiming for Action/ Action Statement – Green</i></p> |

Action Statements

for red milk cartons

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Use only one side of a piece of paper.</p> <p><i>This action wastes paper. If you use both sides, you will use less paper, which will help save trees.</i></p> <p><i>Aiming for Action/ Action Statement – Red</i></p> | <p>Keep wild animals as pets.</p> <p><i>Animals taken out of the wild can't mate and reproduce. Without new young, the animals' population will begin to dwindle.</i></p> <p><i>Aiming for Action/ Action Statement – Red</i></p> |
| <p>Take long showers.</p> <p><i>Long showers waste water.</i></p> <p><i>Aiming for Action/ Action Statement – Red</i></p> | <p>Pour pesticides and paint down the drain.</p> <p><i>Whatever goes down the drain goes into rivers, and eventually the ocean. Pesticides and paint poison animals living in the waterways. Dispose of toxic wastes properly.</i></p> <p><i>Aiming for Action/ Action Statement – Red</i></p> |
| <p>Drive short distances.</p> <p><i>This wastes fuel. Automobile exhaust pollutes the air.</i></p> <p><i>Aiming for Action/ Action Statement – Red</i></p> | <p>Leave the TV on when you are not watching it.</p> <p><i>Wasting energy means more natural resources must be used to create more power. Often, creating energy has negative effects on the environment.</i></p> <p><i>Aiming for Action/ Action Statement – Red</i></p> |
| <p>Throw bottles, jars, and cans in the trash.</p> <p><i>This fills up the landfills and wastes the earth's natural resources. Manufacturers will need to mine new materials to make more glass and metal containers.</i></p> <p><i>Aiming for Action/ Action Statement – Red</i></p> | <p>Knock bird nests out of trees.</p> <p><i>When bird nests are destroyed, birds can't lay eggs and raise young.</i></p> <p><i>Aiming for Action/ Action Statement – Red</i></p> |
| <p>Pick lots of wildflowers.</p> <p><i>Flowers produce seeds to grow new plants. If flowers are picked and taken home, then the plant has no way to reproduce. If too many flowers in one area are picked, then the plant could become endangered.</i></p> <p><i>Aiming for Action/ Action Statement – Red</i></p> | <p>Turn up the heat when you are a little cold.</p> <p><i>Wasting energy means more natural resources must be used to create more power. Often, creating energy has negative effects on the environment.</i></p> <p><i>Aiming for Action/ Action Statement – Red</i></p> |