



# RE-NEWS

A Publication of the City of St. Louis  
Recycling Program



March 2006

## Women's History Month - Recognizing Rachel Carson -

Rachel Carson, an internationally acclaimed author and environmentalist, worked throughout her life to increase awareness of the harmful effects of many human actions on the environment, particularly the dangers of pesticides. As a woman, her first works were met with scorn. But Rachel Carson continued to work, study, and publish her findings until she had earned respect for women in the scientific community.

In honor of Women's History Month, learn more about Rachel Carson, who is now known as the "mother of the environmental movement." For more information, visit <http://www.rachelcarsonhomestead.org>.

For resources that are relevant to the issues Ms. Carson worked on, check out the Refuse Division's Lending Library. Descriptions can be read on our website at <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/recyclibrary.htm#Videos%20K-12>.

### BOOKS

#### *Growing Like Me*

by Anne Rockwell, ages 2 to 5

*Rachel: The Story of Rachel Carson*

by Amy Ahrlich, ages 5 to 10

### VIDEOS

#### *Good Riddance! series*

-Flies: *You Want Flies With That?*

-Rats: *The Pipe Are Calling*

-Snails: *Escargot Cult*

-Termites: *Attack Of The Killer Echidna*

by Australian Broadcasting System/Bullfrog Films

5 minutes, grades 3 to adult

#### *The White Hole*

by Jurgen Haacks

10 minutes, grades 5 to adult

*Rethink - Pollution Prevention Pays*

by John deWitt/Video-tech Ltd.

10 minutes, grades 7 to adult

#### *Up Close and Toxic*

by Carol Underwood/Michael Adler, CBC's The Nature of Things

45 minutes, grades 7 to adult

## PEST OR GUEST QUIZ

When are insects troublesome pests, or welcome guests? Next to each insect, mark P for pest or G for guest. Fill in the blanks to name each insect (Teacher: provide picture, if possible).

1. It chews and kills corn plants. \_ \_ \_ \_  
(Answer: grub)
2. It bites apples and makes them look bad. \_ \_ \_ \_  
(Answer: worm)
3. It pollinates flowers and crops. \_ \_ \_ (Answer: bee)
4. It can cause asthma in allergic children.  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (Answer: cockroach)
5. It preys on other insects that may harm plants.  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (Answer: spider)
6. Its bite can give your dog or cat heartworm.  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (Answer: mosquito)
7. It shows up at your picnic. \_ \_ \_ (Answer: ant)
8. It may sting, but it's a helpful pollinator, too.  
\_ \_ \_ \_ (Answer: wasp)

## NATIVE PLANT ACTIVITY

Plants that are native to Missouri can thrive without the usual lawn and garden chemicals, such as pesticides. Using the following website and books, have your students (individually or in groups) design their own landscape or garden. Have them give presentations describing their designs, including their selection criteria (e.g., color, shape, size, unusual features, growing months).

+Grow Native! Missouri Department of Education

<http://www.grownative.org>

+Denison, Edgar. *Missouri Wildflowers*.

+Kurz, Don. *Trees of Missouri*.

+Tylka Dave. *Native Landscaping for Wildlife and People: How to Use Native Mid-western Plants to Beautify Your Property and Benefit Wildlife*.



## Mosaic Woman

Since March is Women's History Month, ask your students to reflect on a woman who has had some sort of influence on their life. She might be a mother, grandmother, aunt, sister, cousin, neighbor, teacher, or figure in history. She could be from their past or present. How has she affected them? Did she teach them how to cook or solve a math formula? Has she helped them to appreciate or understand literature or science? Do they enjoy playing games or watching movies with her? Has she shown them gardening or carpentry skills?

Using this information, your students will create a mosaic. They can create a literal picture of how they think she looks. Or something figurative, a translation of how they see her, or a hobby or passion they associate with her. Or, interpret their connection with her.

Snack bags, candy wrappers, and food packaging come in an entire rainbow of colors. And, they are not recyclable. Instruct your students to collect as many as possible, rinsing or washing the inside, if necessary. They might collect them during lunch periods or snack breaks, or bring them from home or ask their family to bring them from work.

Once a sufficient supply has been assembled, cut the bags, wrappers, or packaging into pieces of varying shapes and sizes. Then, instruct them to lay them out on a piece of paper, contemplating their design. When they're ready, have them glue down the mosaic pieces. They can embellish their work with paint, to serve as "grout."

To study more about the art of mosaics, a technique that can be used with all types of discarded materials, check out the following resources:

[++http://www.thejoyofshards.co.uk/projects/index.shtml](http://www.thejoyofshards.co.uk/projects/index.shtml)

[++http://www.greekmosaics.com](http://www.greekmosaics.com)

[++http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/romans/mosaics\\_gallery.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/romans/mosaics_gallery.shtml)

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### Contact the City of St. Louis Refuse Division's Recycling Program:

<http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/refuse>

e-mail: [recycle@stlouis.missouri.org](mailto:recycle@stlouis.missouri.org)

phone: 353-7176 (direct dial)

or 353-8877 (switchboard)

## The Best Leprechauns Make Black Gold!

Gear up for spring this year with one of earth's most valuable resources - Compost! Known as "black gold" in recognition of its invaluable nourishing qualities, compost is fun and fairly simple to create.

Help your students to work leprechaun magic this season - and turn trash into gold! Here are your ingredients:

+Nitrogen-rich organic waste - Food scraps (no oils, meat, or dairy products), eggshells, live grass clippings, etc.

+Carbon-rich organic waste - Dry leaves, dry grass clippings, even newspaper!

You don't even need to go outdoors. The Recycling Program can loan you an indoor vermicomposting bin - a freestanding structure into which you will place your organic waste, letting a farm of red-wiggler worms go to work on the waste.

What comes out in the end? Clean-smelling, nutrient-rich compost, which you can add to gardens, use for potting indoor plants, and share with friends!

To reinforce this activity, you can invite a Refuse Division staff member to visit your classroom to further discuss compost and composting. Our composting presentation is fun and interdisciplinary, covering topics such as life sciences, basic chemistry, and the importance of resourcefulness as it pertains to our environment, economy, and societal well-being.

Contact the Recycling Program at [recycle@stlouis.missouri.org](mailto:recycle@stlouis.missouri.org), or 314.353.7176 to schedule a visiting presentation about compost, or to request a loaner worm bin. We can't wait to hear from you!

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### Reader Submissions Welcome

The Recycling Program invites you to submit material for this monthly newsletter. Would you like to share your activities, lesson plans, "how to" tips, or something else related to waste management education? Please, e-mail us at [recycle@stlouis.missouri.org](mailto:recycle@stlouis.missouri.org). We look forward to hearing from you.

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Do you know any educators, homeschoolers, or youth group leaders who would like to receive RE-NEWS from the City of St. Louis Recycling Program? Tell them to contact us at [recycle@stlouis.missouri.org](mailto:recycle@stlouis.missouri.org), or 353-7176, and we will add them to the e-mail list for this free publication.

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*A note: We currently distribute RE-NEWS in electronic format, to conserve our natural resources and our budget.*