

Materials

1 set “What do you need?
What do you want?” cards for
each pair of players

1 used envelope for each set of
cards

Preparation

- Print one set of cards for
each pair of people
- Cut the cards on the dotted
lines and put one set of
cards into each envelope

What do you need? What do you want?

Purpose: To help participants distinguish between personal needs and wants, and consider how things are used or wasted.

This activity is designed for working in pairs.

What to do

- 1 Get a partner. If working with a larger group, divide into pairs.
- 2 In your pair, open your envelope of cards. Divide the cards into two groups:
 - things you need to live a healthy life
 - things you don’t necessarily need, but that might be nice to have.

Take about five minutes to complete this part of the activity.
- 3 As a group, discuss your “needs” and “wants.” Did you notice any basic needs that you felt the cards did not represent (for example, things like “friends,” “clean air,” or “respect”)?
- 4 Again, in pairs, shuffle your cards. Now divide the cards into these groups:
 - things that end up being thrown away or wasted, at least in part
 - things that are not usually thrown way or wasted.

Take about five minutes to complete this part of the activity.
- 5 As a group, discuss how you sorted the cards. Consider together how different people define their “needs” or “wants.” Discuss how fulfilling the needs or wants of one person can create trash or garbage for another person. Consider ways that “trash” from one person might be usable by another.



CENTER FOR
ECOLITERACY

What do you need? What do you want?



cell phone



bread



soap



candy



clothes



bicycle



fruit



water




soil



computer



electricity



table



shoes



health care

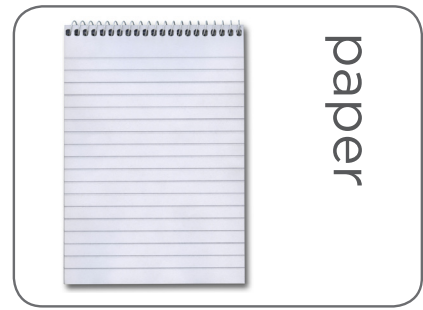


dishes



cars





WWW.ECOLITERACY.ORG

The Center for Ecoliteracy is a Berkeley, California-based nonprofit that supports and advances education for sustainable living. Through its initiative Smart by Nature: Schooling for Sustainability, the Center offers expertise, inspiration, and support to the growing green schools movement in K-12 education. It provides books, teaching guides, and other publications; professional development seminars; and consulting, including academic program audits, in-depth curriculum development, and coaching to improve teaching and learning for sustainability. The Center's 2009 book, *Smart by Nature: Schooling for Sustainability*, showcases inspiring stories about public, independent, and charter schools across the United States. Environmental educator David W. Orr calls *Smart by Nature* "must reading for teachers, school administrators, parents, and the concerned public." Learn more at: