Lesson Plan: Pollution Search

Goal: Students will learn to identify different types of pollution and how to manage the pollution. Students will also learn ways to reduce pollution.

Assessment: Students will be able to identify the different forms of pollution in the story and how it was cleaned up. Students will then participate in a walk around their school campus identifying one form of pollution known as litter, discuss how to manage it and reduce it!

Age Group: Grades K-3

Time: 45-60 minutes

Materials:
- *The Cat in the Hat Comes Back* by Dr. Seuss
- A pair of vinyl gloves for each student
- Bags for garbage and recycling

Note: You may need to provide types of garbage and recycling if your school campus is really clean.

Vocabulary
Pollution – contamination of air, water or soil by substances that are harmful to living organisms
Recycling – processing used materials into new products to reduce our consumption of natural resources.

Activity
- Read aloud *The Cat in the Hat Comes Back*. The ask the following questions:
  - What is pollution?
  - What did the cat do that caused pollution?
  - What did the cat do to clean up the pollution?

- Explain to the students that they will be participating in a pollution cleanup around the school.
- Hand each student a pair of gloves and put them in teams of 2.
- Take the students for a walk to look for one kind of pollution – litter.
- Wearing their gloves, have students pick up the litter and put it in a large trash bag.
- After collecting the litter, help the students to sort it into piles deciding what is garbage and what is recycling.
- Have a discussion where students can name ways that litter can be reduced and why it is important to manage it properly.
Extensions
- Have students write a short story on how pollution affects wildlife. They can even include illustrations if they choose. For younger students, this can be done as a whole class activity.

Minnesota Teaching Standards
Kindergarten
Science: 0.1.2.1.1, 0.2.1.1.1
Social Studies: 0.1.1.1.1, 0.4.1.2.1

1st Grade
Science: 1.1.1.1.1, 1.1.1.1.2
Social Studies: 1.1.1.1.1

2nd Grade
Science: 2.1.1.2.1
Social Studies: 2.2.3.3.1

3rd Grade
Science: 3.1.1.1.1
Social Studies: 3.1.1.1.1