

Computer Capers

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www.buddyproject.org/capers

Energy Hog



Did you know more money is spent on energy in the classroom than on textbooks and computers combined? Did you know that there are energy vampires living in your home

or classroom? Check out the “Energy Hog” web site at <http://www.energyhog.org/> to help you discover how energy is being “hog-wasted” and where the energy vampires are sucking energy by the kilowatts! This site includes scavenger hunts that will teach you what energy wasting areas are, as well as help you become more aware of energy saving practices both at home and at school.

Indiana Language Arts Standard 3.2 Students read and understand grade-level appropriate material.

At Grade 3, in addition to regular classroom reading, students read a variety of nonfiction, such as biographies, books in many subject areas, children's magazines and periodicals, and reference and technical materials.

Designing Communities

To understand and appreciate the complexities of a community, work in small groups of 3-4 students or family members to create your own model of an energy efficient community. First, begin your planning by using the free, online version of SimCity found here: http://simcity.ea.com/play/simcity_classic.php. Follow their four steps for developing your city:

- 1) Build a power plant,
- 2) Add zones,
- 3) Connect power lines, and
- 4) Build roads.

Next, create a model of your community using only recycled material. Take notes of the steps you take, then write a paper describing your town and the resources and energy used to sustain it. Include a name for your city and other interesting details.

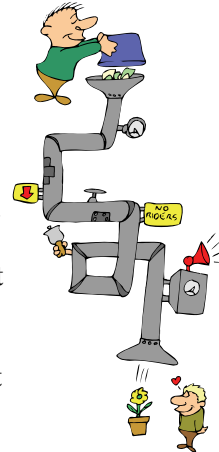


Indiana Science Standard 7.7.2 Use different models to represent the same thing, noting that the kind of model and its complexity should depend on its purpose.

Indiana Language Arts Standard 7.4 Students discuss, list, and graphically organize writing ideas. They write clear, coherent, and focused essays. Students progress through the stages of the writing process and proofread, edit, and revise writing.

Homemade Trash Monsters

Here is a fun way to explore re-using trash by getting your family involved with this fun home project. Using only material that would have been thrown away, create a trash monster at home with the help of your parents. Create a milk jug “robot,” soda pop “person” or cereal box “character,” who can help you recycle trash in original and imaginative ways; the possibilities are endless! Once the monster has been concocted, use a word processor to name and describe your monster. Develop a story including what your monster likes to eat, what kind of house it lives in, and any other details that will give added personality to your unique monster.



Indiana Language Arts Standard. 2.5.2 Write a brief description of a familiar object, person, place, or event that develops a main idea and uses details to support the main idea.

Indiana Science Standard. 2.2.4 Assemble, describe, take apart, and/or reassemble constructions using such things as interlocking blocks and erector sets. Sometimes pictures or words may be used as a reference.

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