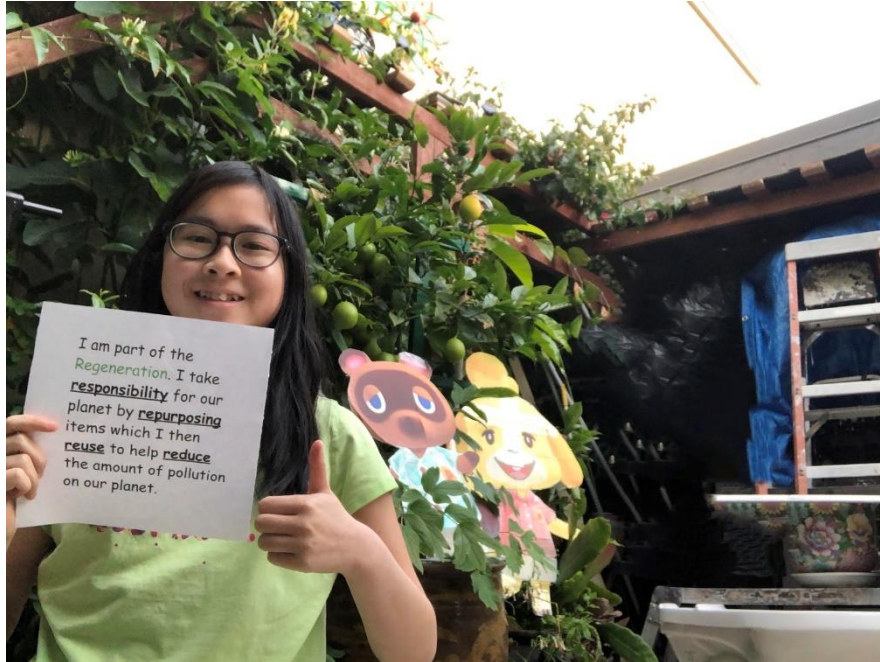


Nora C., Alameda

May the 4Rs Be With You Contest 2020

Responsibility, Reuse, Repurpose, Reduce



My 4Rs Reflection

Responsibility: I chose responsibility because I take responsibility for all my actions, as my actions can significantly impact the Earth. Actions could include putting things in the correct bin to help make sure that I'm not contaminating items, such as in the recycling bin, where cardboard and paper are often repurposed and very highly sought after. Another could be choosing to ride my bike instead of going in a car to help reduce my carbon footprint/air pollution because biking doesn't discharge any more carbon emanations. Also, bikes are considered the most energy-efficient form of transportation as it takes up less energy than walking or driving. So by taking responsibility and being able to help use methods that are less harmful to the Earth, I can bring an impact, whether it be big or small because everything counts.

Reuse: I chose reuse because it's essential for me to reduce the amount of waste there is on Earth. Things like plastic and paper are often disregarded as many deem them as a one-time use product, but for me, I like to reuse not only to save money but, as mentioned, reduce the waste on Earth. But for items like clothing and shoes, where they can grow out of style or no longer fit me, instead of throwing it away, I can bring them to shelters like Salvation Army because then someone else can wear it and the cycle continues. Also, straws! Plastic straws greatly affect our oceans and land animals like turtles and birds as they often mistake them for food and end up consuming them. Not only that, but they are non-biodegradable, which means that it can't be normally separated by decomposers. They likewise aren't acknowledged by recycling centers since they can break down the recycling machinery since they're so small,

which is why they're not recyclable. So by choosing to reuse items, I can not only help out my community but help save our oceans.

Repurpose: I chose reuse because it's essential for me to reduce the amount of waste there is on Earth. Things like plastic and paper are often disregarded as many deem them as a one-time use product, but for me, I like to reuse not only to save money but, as mentioned, reduce the waste on Earth. But for items like clothing and shoes, where they can grow out of style or no longer fit me, instead of throwing it away, I can bring them to shelters like Salvation Army because then someone else can wear it, and the cycle continues. Also, straws! Plastic straws significantly affect our oceans and land animals like turtles and birds as they often mistake them for food and end up consuming them. Not only that, but they are non-biodegradable, which means that decomposers can't generally separate it. They likewise aren't acknowledged by recycling centers since they can break down the recycling machinery since they're so small, which is why they're not recyclable. So by choosing to reuse items, I can not only help out my community but help save our oceans.

Reduce: I chose to reduce because I want to help reduce the amount of carbon footprint, pollution, usage of plastic bags, etc. Often, I see myself purchasing too many things at a grocery store and find myself not remembering to carry a reusable bag, so I end up having to buy a plastic bag. However, I've made it a mission to help find solutions to mistakes like this one by reusing plastic bags to reduce the amount of plastic that goes into the oceans and landfills where they add to the high amount of trash contaminating the earth. By choosing to reduce, I'm leading in by example to others as I encourage them to do their part in helping out the environment by purchasing in bulk or purchasing reusable items like straws, water bottles, bags, etc. to minimize as much waste as possible.