

Make An Acre

- 1) This activity is done best with the Apple topsoil activity, to help students understand why topsoil is important, and that we all end up using the equivalent of an acre of topsoil in our lifetime.
- 2) Bring along a rope is 117.75 feet long; this is the radius of an acre.
- 3) Everyone walks together out to a field.
- 4) You hold the rope.
- 5) Ask for a volunteer to come, take the rope from you, and they stand still holding one end of the rope. Then you take the rest of the rope and ask everyone other than the volunteer in the middle to follow you as you walk away from the volunteer until the rope becomes taut. You've now made the radius of a circle with the area of one acre
- 6) Everyone forms a line behind the you, and you start walking quickly or running in a circle, while you hold the end of the rope. This creates the perimeter of the acre-sized circle. Say to the group: "When I say "stop," the first person in line stops and stands where they are. Everyone else keep following!" This ends up spacing people out all along the perimeter of the circle.
- 7) Then shout out, "How big is an acre?" And everyone shouts "Really big!", or something to that effect.
- 8) Bring everyone back together close. Talk about how each of us uses up the equivalent of an acre of topsoil in our lifetime. (More discussion points here are listed in the apple activity if you haven't yet done this with the group.)
- 9) Depending on what you link this lesson to, you can go on to discuss soil, composting as a way of building and creating new topsoil, natural resources, scarcity, etc.