

# Recycling

## Grades K-3 Recycling Lesson Plan



### What is recycling?

- Objective: To introduce and define what recycling is to your classroom.
- Lesson: What is recycling? Introduce the term and see if any of your students are familiar with what it is. After you gauge their knowledge:
- Activity: Pass out the recycling definition sheet and go over it with your students.
- Discussion: Ask your students a few discussion questions:
1. Example: Do any of you recycle at home?
  2. Example: Can you guess why it is important to recycle?
- Activity: Share recycling rules guide sheet.

### What can we recycle?

- Objective: To introduce your students to items that can be easily recycled at home or at school.
- Activity: Before you introduce the recyclable items, present them with the empty recycling bin and see what recyclables they draw in their bin.
- Discussion: Introduce different types of recyclable materials (bottles, cans, glass, etc.)
1. Share recycling groups sheet
- Discussion: Ask your students to give you some examples of items they can recycle at home.
- Discussion: Ask your students to point out things around the classroom that are recyclable.
- Activity: After you talk to them about the different recyclable materials, give your students the blank recycling bin again and ask them to draw in materials they use at home or at school that can be recycled.
- Activity: Compare and contrast with your students their recycling bins from before and after the activity.

### Why is it important to recycle?

- Objective: Inform your students on why it is important to recycle and how recyclable materials can be made into other things.
- Discussion: Talk to you students about the importance of recycling for the environment and our ecosystem.
- Discussion: Talk about the recycling cycle. When you recycle your items, they can be made into other things.
- Activity: Give your students the "What Will I Become" sheet and ask them to fill it out. What will they want their plastic water bottle to become (i.e. milk jug, shoes, playgrounds, another plastic bottle, tee shirts, homemade bird feeders)?

### Recycling Pledge and coloring activity:

- Objective: Get your students to take the recycling pledge.
- Activity: Ask them to fill out the recycling pledge sheet with ways they will recycle at home and at school.
- Activity: Ask your students to bring in an item from home that is recyclable so you can recycle it in the classroom.
- Activity: Pass out recycling coloring sheet and ask your students to color the blank recyclable items.

### Recycling Rockstars:

- Objective: After this lesson they will be officially Recycling Rockstars!
- Activity: Present them with their Recycling Rockstar Badge.

# Recycling



## Recycling - What it is and why is it important?

Recycling is the process of gathering and changing waste into valuable and reusable materials. Recycling benefits your community and the environment as a whole because it reduces the amount of waste that ends up in landfills, on the streets, or in our waterways and oceans. Recyclable waste that ends up in landfills does not disintegrate, and will stay in the landfill for a very long time.

- If glass ends up in a landfill, it will take **one million years to decompose**
- If aluminum ends up in a landfill, it will take between **200-500 years to decompose**
- If plastic ends up in a landfill, it will take **1,000 years to decompose**

## The Recycling Cycle:

Do you ever wonder what happens to your soda can, plastic water bottle, or glass jar when you recycle it? Here's how the recycling process works:



## Importance of Recycling:

Recycling helps to reduce the amount of waste that ends up in landfills and also reduces the need for mining and refining of other natural resources which creates substantial air and water pollutants.

# Basic Recycling Rules:



Recycle only **CLEAN** bottles, cans, paper and cardboard.



Do not throw loose plastic bags in your recycling bin. These can often be returned to the grocery store to recycle.



Make sure to keep food and liquid out of the recycling bin!



Do not bag recyclables.

# What can you recycle?

Fill up your recycling bin with things you recycle at home or at school!



# Recycling Groups

## Paper



Cardboard, Paper  
Bags, Newspapers

## Glass



Glass Bottles, Jars  
(Green and Clear)

## Plastic



Plastic Bottles, Soda  
Bottles, Milk Jugs

## Metal



Cans (Drink and  
Canned Food)

# What can you recycle?

Fill up your recycling bin with things you recycle at home or at school!



# What Will I Become?

When you recycle me, I can be made into many new things.



**Draw something  
you want me to  
be made into.**

# My Recycling Pledge

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# My Recycling Pledge

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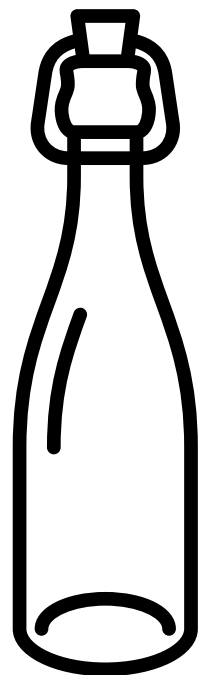
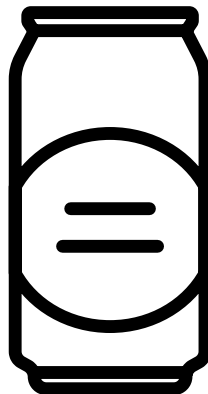
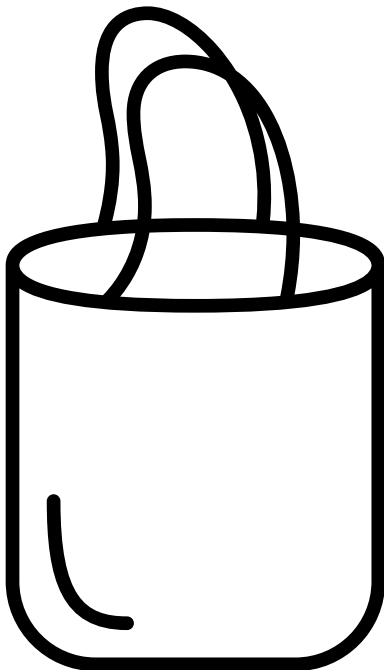
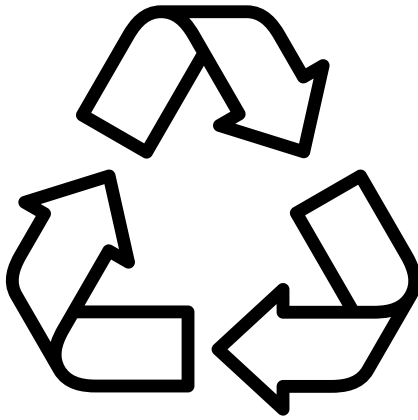
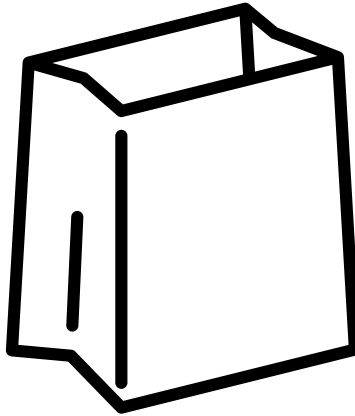
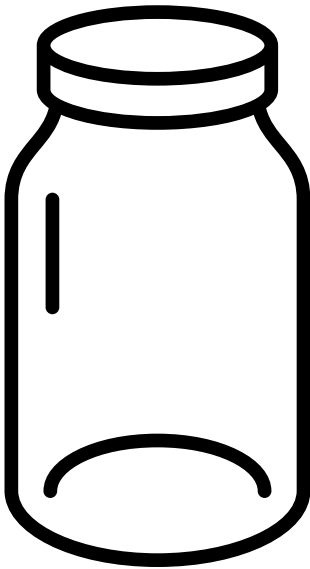
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# Recycling Coloring



# Recycling Rock Star Badge

from The Campaign for Recycling Awareness

