



Think Before You Toss

Activity E.t

Grades 4 - 6

OBJECTIVES: To offer students alternatives to throwing everything "away." To generate discussion about renewable, non-renewable, reusable, and recyclable resources.

MATERIALS: For each team:

- 5 steel cans labeled compost, household hazardous waste, landfill, recycle, reuse
- A ziploc bag with cardboard strips or popsicle sticks, each one labeled with an item that might be thrown in the trash (see list on following pages for suggestions).

TIME: 20 - 30 minutes

PROCEDURE:

Give each team of four or five students a set of labeled cans and a ziploc bag of "trash." Have them sort the "trash" into the receptacles, discussing their decisions as they sort. Allow 10 - 15 minutes for this part of the activity. At the end of this time, check what each group has in its landfill. Do the groups have similar items? Why or why not?

These labels may be copied, cut out, and glued or taped on steel cans or plastic (not glass) jars.

REUSE

HOUSEHOLD

HAZARDOUS WASTE

RECYCLE

COMPOST

LANDFILL

These labels may be copied onto paper, cut out, and glued on cardboard strips or popsicle sticks. You may wish to color-code the back of each set of strips or sticks to ensure that sets do not get mixed up.

Half-used spiral notebook	Apple core	Brown paper grocery bag
Spoiled hamburger meat	Leftover macaroni and cheese	Plastic shampoo bottle
Chicken bones	Walnut shells	Hamster cage paper and droppings
Bag of cotton T-shirts	Grass cuttings	Cracked plastic soap dispenser
Used cat litter	Cardboard frozen juice container	Half-full bottle of cedar oil wood polish
Peach pits	Bleach bottle	Plastic window cleaner bottle
Old business cards	Rubber band	Small amount of dry oil paint in a can
Plastic milk jug	Brown glass medicine bottle	Aerosol spray starch can
Aluminum soda can	Egg shells	5-year-old English grammar textbook
Lamp oil bottle	Potato peelings	Lamp without an electric cord 10-year-old
Broken plastic fork	Plastic soda bottle	computer -- works fine
Steel wool pad	Glass baby food jar	Green glass drink bottle
Corn husks	Used cotton swabs	Broken washing machine
Drain-opener can	Steel vegetable can	Cracked ceramic coffee mug
Used file folders	Deflated leather football	Old lunch box (plastic)
Moldy cottage cheese	Coffee grounds	Styrofoam packaging
Worn-out car tires	Paper, printed on one side	Broken cassette tape
Broken weed eater	Waxed milk carton	Shoes that are too small
Broken clear drinking glass	Brown glass bottle	Doll, slightly worn
Bacon grease	Nearly empty pesticide can	Bead necklace with broken clasp
Dried cheese	Broken watch	Small amount of wet oil paint in a can
Juice box	Broken lawn mower	Spilled baking soda
Used disposable diaper	2-inch pencil stub	Old jeans-- too small, worn at knees
Cereal box	Large box of costume jewelry	Banana peel
Styrofoam fast-food box	Notebooks with old material	Cardboard box
Newspapers	Fast food restaurant paper sack	
Transistor battery	Plastic grocery bag	
Spray can of furniture polish	Computer paper used on one side	
Sock -- hole in toe	Plastic petroleum jelly jar	
Paperback book	Paper, written on both sides	
Half-used coloring book	Old, broken bicycle	
Torn poster	Clock -- alarm doesn't work	
	Corrugated cardboard box	