



# RECYCLE IT!\*

Activity P.aa

Grade Level K - 3

**OBJECTIVE:** Students will: · recognize the recycled symbol and understand that it indicates that a product is made from recycled materials · recognize the recyclable symbol and understand that it means that the item can be recycled in some areas · understand recycling as a loop process · identify items that can be recycled.

**MATERIALS:** · Recycle Cycle transparency · Recycled Items handout · Recycle symbol · various items with recycle symbol · drawing paper · crayons or markers · samples of products with recycling symbols

**VOCABULARY:** recycle, recyclable, recycled, precycle

**PROCEDURE:** 1. Ask: What does recycle mean? (Recycle means to take something that isn't going to be used for its original purpose and make it into something new.) Hold up an item that has a recycle symbol on it. Draw the symbol on the board. (See symbol with this lesson.) Explain that the symbol is made of three arrows in the shape of a triangle. Demonstrate that, if you start at one arrow and follow it, you go around and around in a loop. Explain that this loop represents how recycling works. For example, an item that needs to be disposed of is taken to a recycling center instead of put into the trash. The item - along with many other similar items - is shipped to a recycling plant, or materials recovery facility, that reprocesses the material into a new item. The new product goes to the store, where it is purchased. Go through this process with several items, such as a plastic soda bottle or aluminum can. (See Recycle Cycle transparency.)

2. Pass around samples of products with recycling symbols. Explain to students that there are several versions of the recycle symbol. Ask students if they know the difference between recycled and recyclable. ("Recycled" means the item was made from recycled material. "Recyclable" means that the item was made from material that may be recyclable in your area.)

3. Discuss the importance of looking for the symbol when you shop. Explain that many people precycle. Precycling means that they buy products that can be recycled or reused and that they buy products made from recycled materials whenever they can.

4. Ask students if they have items at home that can be recycled. List on the board recyclable items the students can name. 5. Distribute Recyclable Items handout and review. 6. Using drawing paper and crayons or markers, have students draw several items that are recyclable that can be found in their home.

**EXTENSIONS:** Have students bring in items that display a recycle symbol and show which items are recyclable and which are made from recycled materials. trash. The item - along with many other similar items - is shipped to a recycling plant, or materials recovery facility, that reprocesses the

material into a new item. The new product goes to the store, where it is purchased. Go through this process with several items, such as a plastic soda bottle or aluminum can. (See Recycle Cycle transparency.)

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***\*Source: Action for a Cleaner Tomorrow: A South Carolina Environmental Curriculum***