



Think Before You Toss

Activity P.cc
Grades K - 3

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 or plastic (not glass) jars labeled compost, household hazardous waste, landfill, recycle, and reuse.
- Pictures of items that might normally be thrown in trash.
- Index cards.

TIME: 30 - 45 minutes

PROCEDURE:

Cut out pictures of items that children commonly encounter at home or at school. You might include pictures of things like an apple, a pair of shoes, aluminum cans, paper, plastic bottles, batteries, toys, and appliances. Look for pictures in magazines or in the inserts in your Sunday paper. Glue the pictures to index cards.

Divide class into teams of 3 - 5. Give each team a set of labeled cans and a set of pictures of “trash.” Have them sort the “trash” into the labeled steel cans, discussing their decisions within the group as they sort. Allow 10 - 15 minutes for this part of the activity. At the end of this time, have the groups take turns showing the rest of the class what they have in each can. Do the groups have similar items in their landfills? Why or why not?