



The Magic Recycling Box*

Activity P.x

GRADE LEVELS: K - 3

OBJECTIVES:

To show students that things we use every day can be recycled and used again in another form.

MATERIALS:

- Cardboard carton, decorated if desired. The carton should be big enough to hold all materials. A liquor or glass ware box would be especially useful, because the box inserts help prevent articles from clanking together.
- Aluminum Coke can, aluminum Sprite can (any brands will do, as long as the cans look different)
- aluminum pie pan
- small piece of aluminum foil
- drinking glass
- glass jar
- glass flower vase
- apple
- ziploc bag of soil
- plastic soft drink bottle
- plastic margarine tub
- plastic yogurt cup
- piece of white paper
- newspaper
- cardboard egg carton
- Other recyclable items, if you wish. Be creative!

TIME: 20 – 30 minutes

PROCEDURE:

The “magician” sets up his/her box on a table or podium in front of the audience, positioning it so that audience members cannot see inside the box. Briefly discuss the concept of recycling, then explain that the magic recycling box, unlike a conventional recycling center, can recycle items instantly. Pull out an item, for example, a Coke can. Quickly put the Coke can back in the box and pull out a Sprite can. Put that can back and pull out an aluminum pie pan. Exchange that for a piece of aluminum foil. Keep moving quickly, adding a “patter” about recycling, if you wish. Continue with the other recyclable items in the box.

*Source: Tennessee Solid Waste Education Project, 1996.