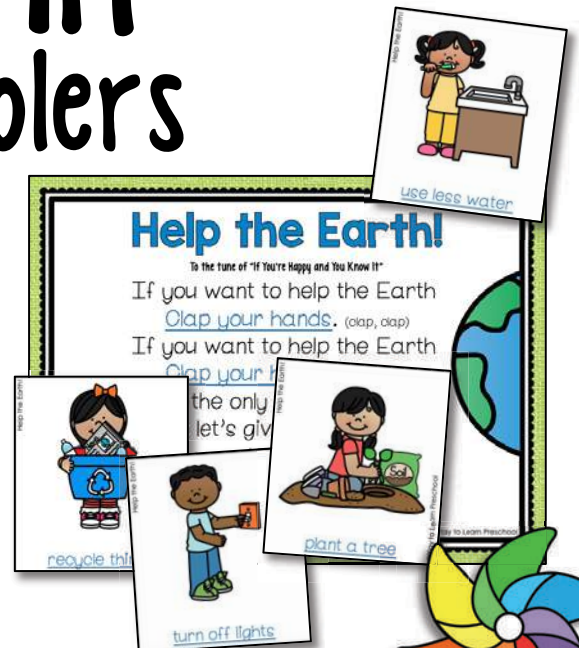


Circle Time

5
LESSONS

Reduce, Reuse, RECYCLE

Mini-Unit for Preschoolers



Play to Learn Preschool



Circle Time Lessons

Unit overview

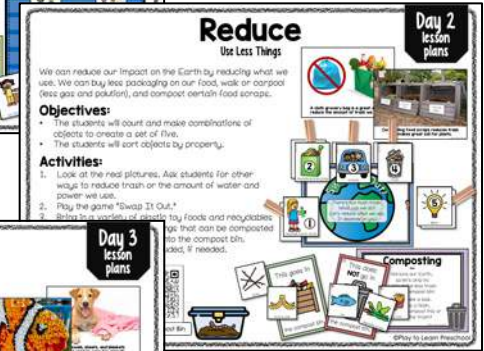
Day 1 Introduction - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Introduce the new unit: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Take a class poll and sing the song "Help the Earth!"



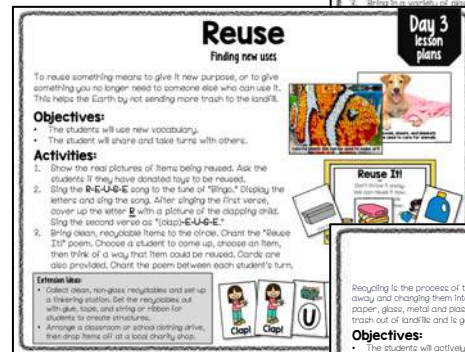
Day 2 Reduce

Look at real-life pictures. Play a chip clip game and sort the trash and compost materials.



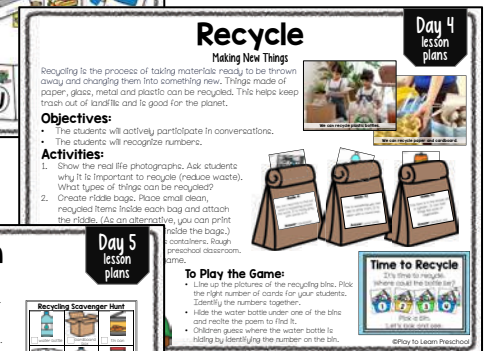
Day 3 Reuse

Discuss the real pictures of art from plastic lids. Sing the B-I-N-G-O song and learn the "Reuse It!" poem.



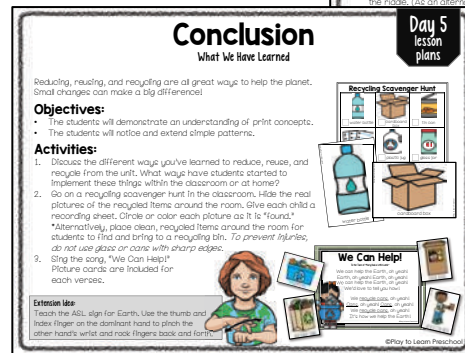
Day 4 Recycle

Examine recycling real pictures. Play the "Time to Recycle" carpet game and guess the riddles.



Day 5 Conclusion

Conclude the unit by going on a scavenger hunt and singing a song.



Introduction

Activate Prior Knowledge

Day 1
lesson
plans

There are many ways we can help the Earth. We can recycle metal, plastic, paper, and glass to keep extra trash out of landfills. We can also reuse items that have more life in them. Another way to keep our Earth clean is to use less energy by turning off the lights when we aren't using them.

Objectives:

- The students will answer questions.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.

Activities:

1. Show the real life photographs. Ask the students if they have done any of the actions in the pictures.
2. Take a poll, "Do you recycle?" Ask students if they recycle at home, then they use post-it notes or name cards to respond on a pocket chart or bar graph.
3. Sing the "Help the Earth" song. Use the picture cards to assist with each verse. Children act out the motions while they sing.



Extension Idea: Create a memory game by filling a tray with 4-6 recycled items. (plastic bottle, empty yogurt cup, newspaper, cardboard box, etc.) Identify each object with the students. Cover the tray with a cloth, then remove one item with the cloth. Students use their memory skills to guess which item is missing.





Planting a tree helps keep the air clean.

To save water, turn it off while brushing your teeth.





Do you recycle?



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Yes, I do!



Tell us more about it!

No, not yet.

Help the Earth!

To the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It"

If you want to help the Earth

Clap your hands. (clap, clap)

If you want to help the Earth

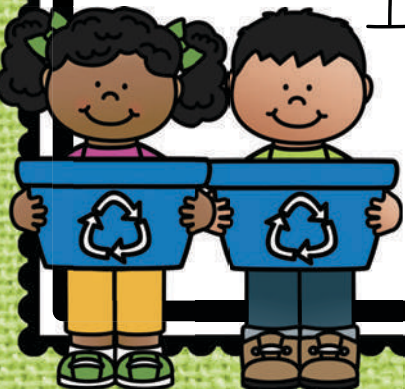
Clap your hands. (clap, clap)

It's the only one we've got,
So let's give it all a shot!

If you want to help the Earth,

Clap your hands! (clap, clap)

Sing more verses using accompanying cards.



Help the Earth!



reduce your trash

Help the Earth!



reuse a bag

Help the Earth!



recycle things

Help the Earth!



use less water

Help the Earth!



turn off lights

Help the Earth!



plant a tree

Reduce

Use Less Things

We can reduce our impact on the Earth by reducing what we use. We can choose food with less packaging; walk or carpool, which reduces pollution; and compost food scraps.

Objectives:

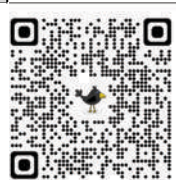
- The students will understand that some items can be conserved.
- The students will sort objects by property.

Activities:

1. Look at the real pictures. Ask students for other ways to reduce trash or the amount of water and power we use.
2. Play the game "Swap It Out."
3. Bring in a variety of plastic toy foods and recyclables to sort into two groups: things that can be composted and things that cannot go into the compost bin. Picture cards are also included, if needed. *To prevent injuries, do not use glass or cans with sharp edges.



Extension idea: Set up a small [indoor worm composting bin](#) with directions from the United States Environmental Protection Agency website.



Indoor Compost Bin



Composting

Poem
We love our Earth,
so let's chip in!
We make less trash
with a compost bin.
Let's take a look,
quick as a flash,
how we compost it.
Put it in the trash.





A cloth grocery bag is a great way to reduce the amount of trash we make.



Composting food scraps reduces trash and makes great soil for plants.

We Can Compost!

Worms love to eat
these things:



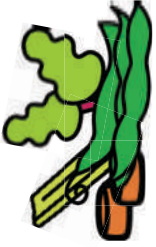
crushed egg shells



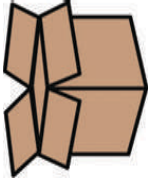
fruit scraps



grass clippings



veggie scraps



ripped cardboard



nut shells

These foods are not
healthy for worms:



fish



greasy food



meat



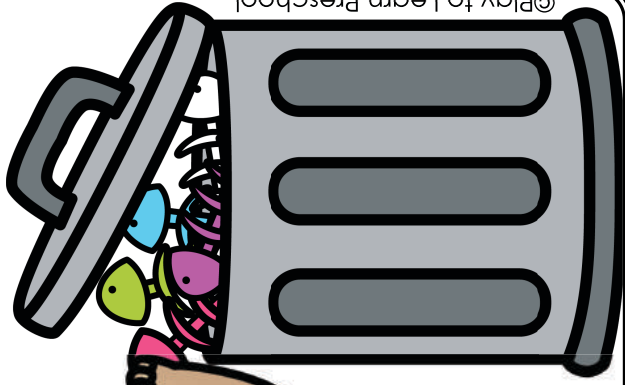
bones



dairy



baked goods



Swap It Out!!

Chip Clip Poem

There's too much trash.
What can we do?
Let's reduce what we use.

How can we reduce
Plastic bottles?

Flip the card around to
show how to reduce what
we use, then repeat with
these verses:

- plastic bags/cloth bag
- pollution/car pool
- food trash/compost
- energy/turn off lights

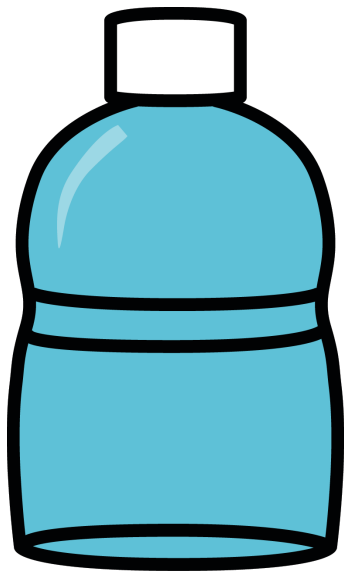




Swap It Out!

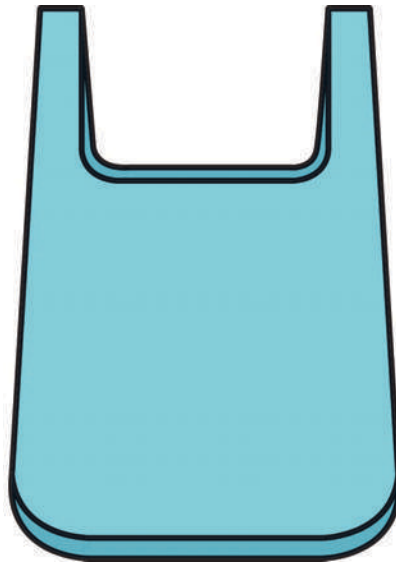
There's too much trash.
What can we do?
Let's reduce what we use.

Swap It Out!



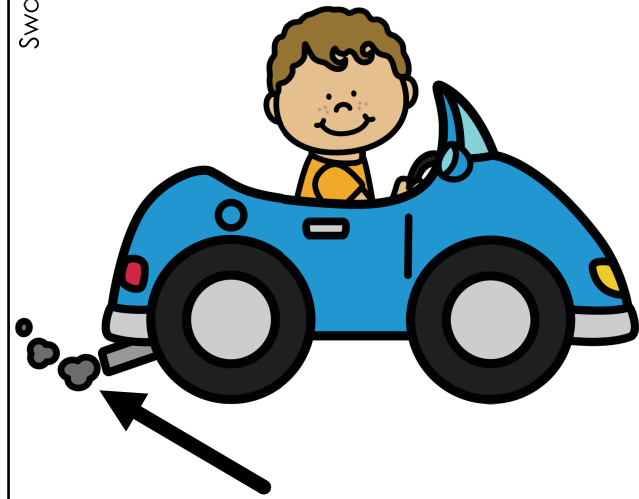
plastic water bottle

Swap It Out!



plastic bag

Swap It Out!



pollution

Swap It Out!



food trash

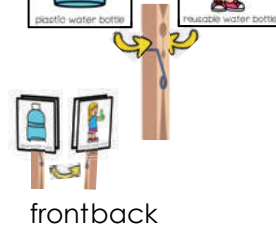
Swap It Out!



energy (lights)

To Play the Game: Print pages on cardstock. Glue the two larger pages back to back to create the base. Affix the smaller cards to clothes pins. Clip cards around the base page. Read the poem and ask students how to use less of the item on the 1st card.

Flip the clothes pin over to show the answer. Repeat with other cards.



Affix the coordinating cards to both sides of a clothes pin.

©Play to Learn Preschool

Swap It Out!



Swap It Out!



Swap It Out!



reusable water bottle

reusable grocery bag

carpool

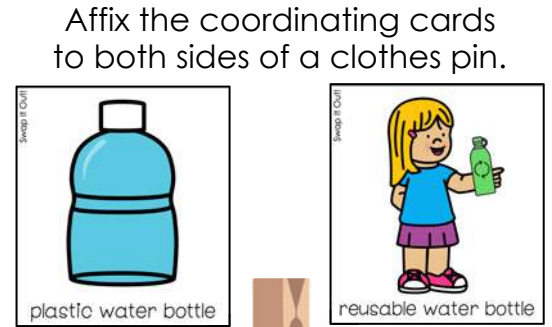
Swap It Out!



Swap It Out!

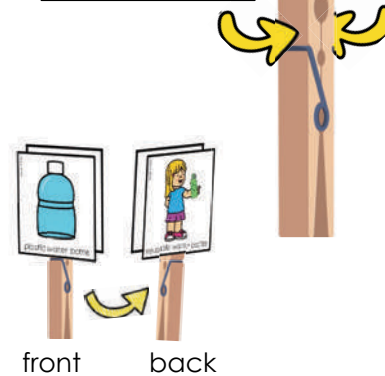


Swap It Out!



compost bin

turn off the lights



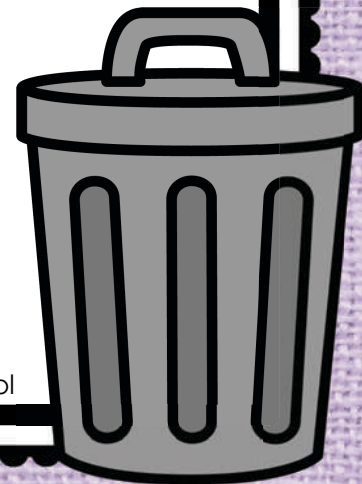
front back

Composting

Poem

We love our Earth,
so let's chip in!
Let's make less trash
With a compost bin!

Let's take a look.
Quick as a flash,
Should we compost this or
Put it in the trash?



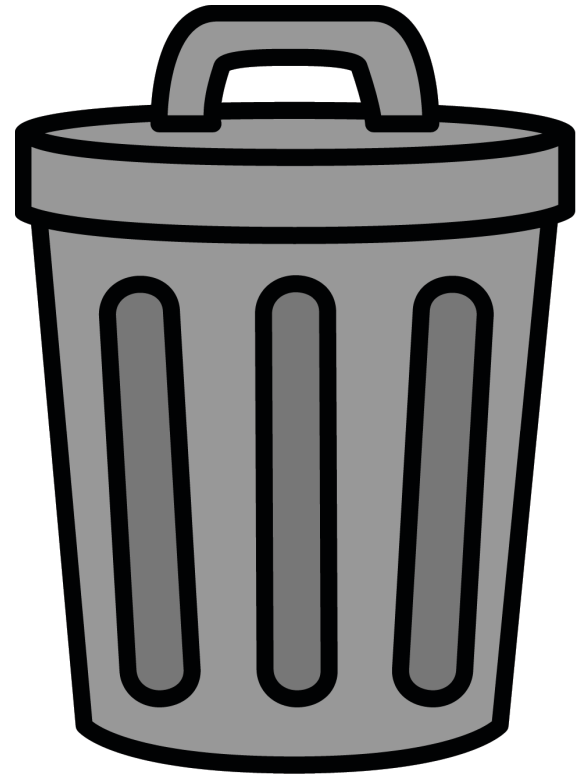
This goes in



the compost bin.

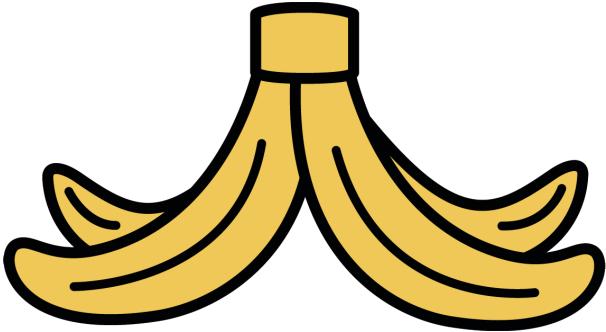


This does
NOT go in



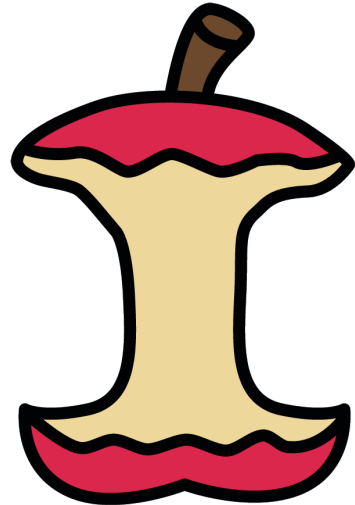
the compost bin.

Composting



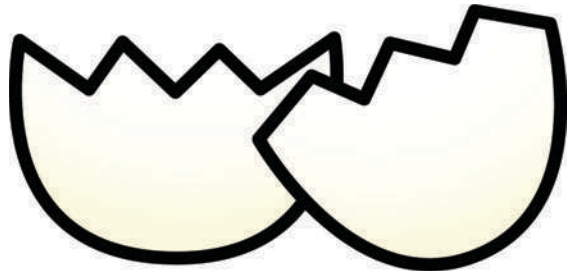
banana peel

Composting



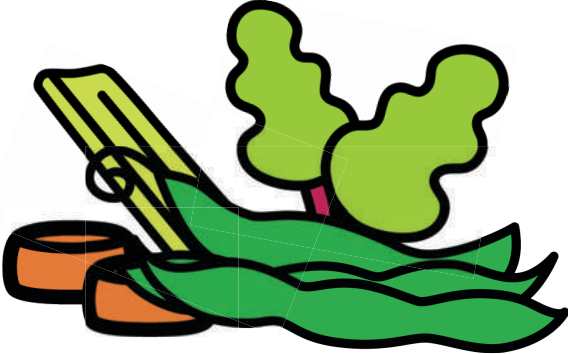
apple core

Composting



crushed eggshells

Composting



vegetable scraps

Composting



coffee grounds

Composting



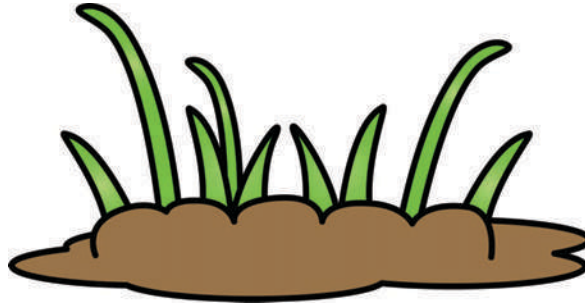
old flowers

Composting



grass clippings

Composting



weeds

Composting



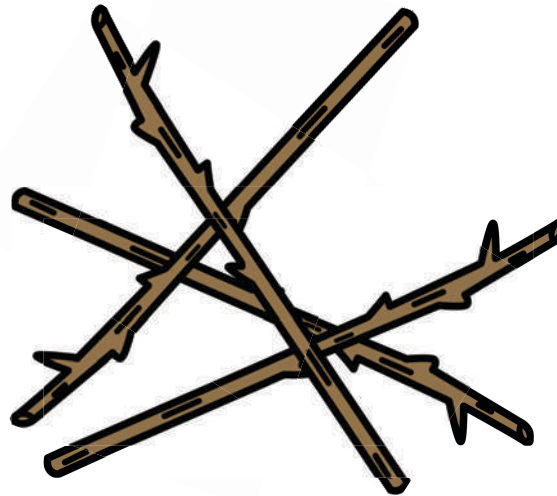
cardboard

Composting



leaves

Composting



sticks

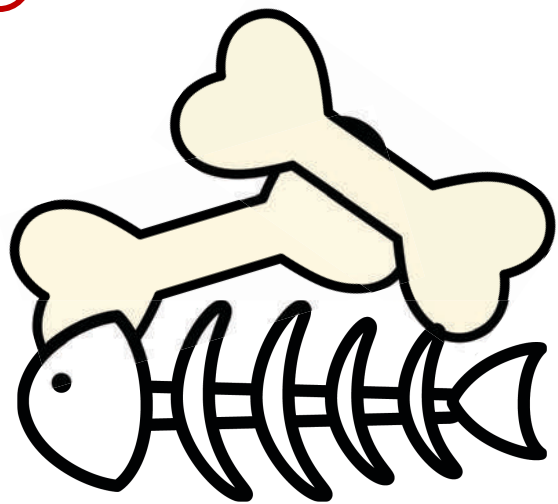
Composting



nutshells



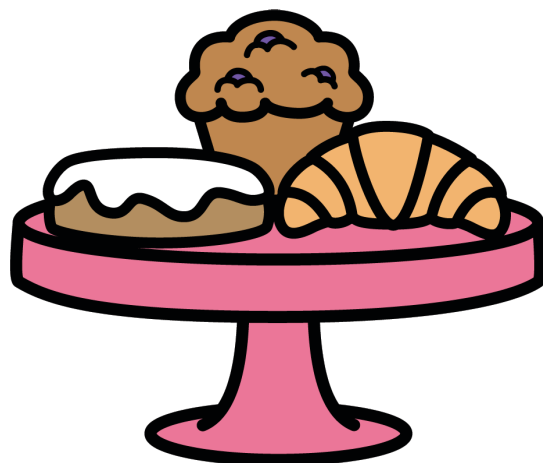
Composting



bones



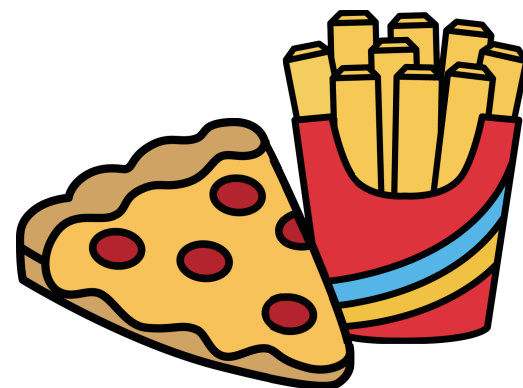
Composting



baked treats



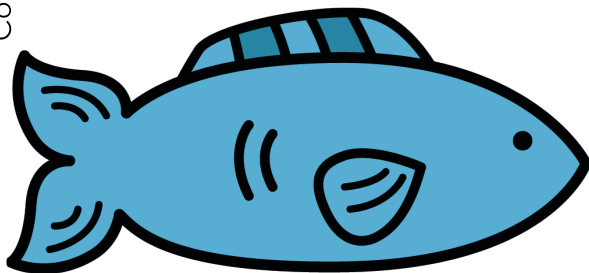
Composting



greasy food



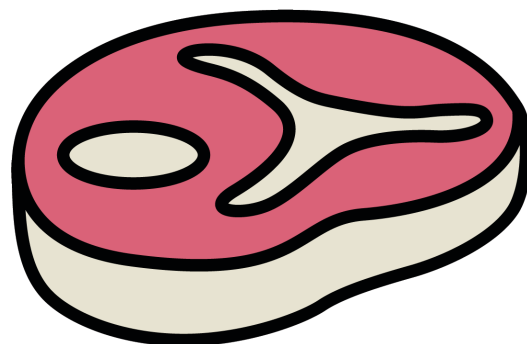
Composting



fish



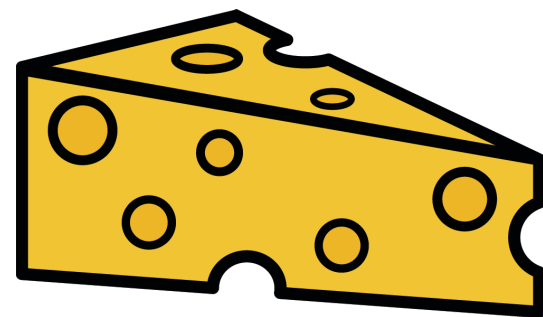
Composting



meat



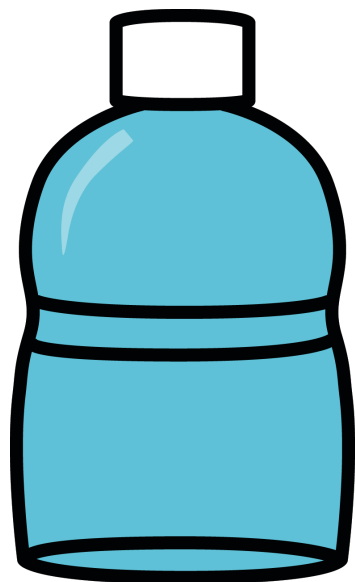
Composting



cheese



Composting



plastic bottle



Composting



food can



Composting



soda can



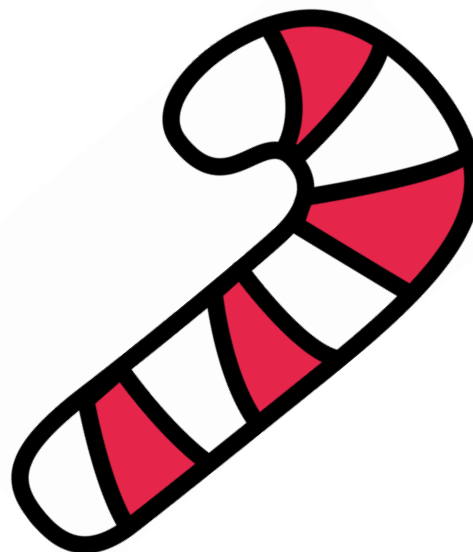
Composting



plastic



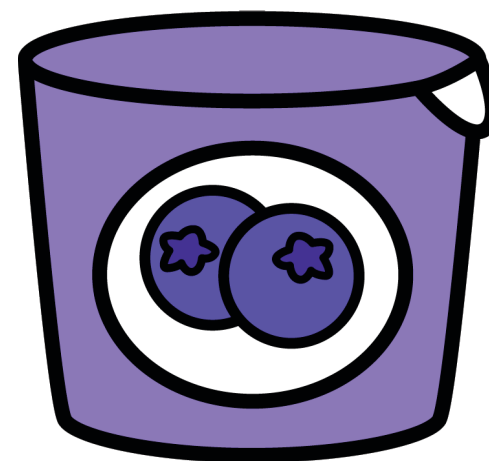
Composting



candy



Composting



plastic cup

Reuse

Finding new uses

Day 3
lesson
plans

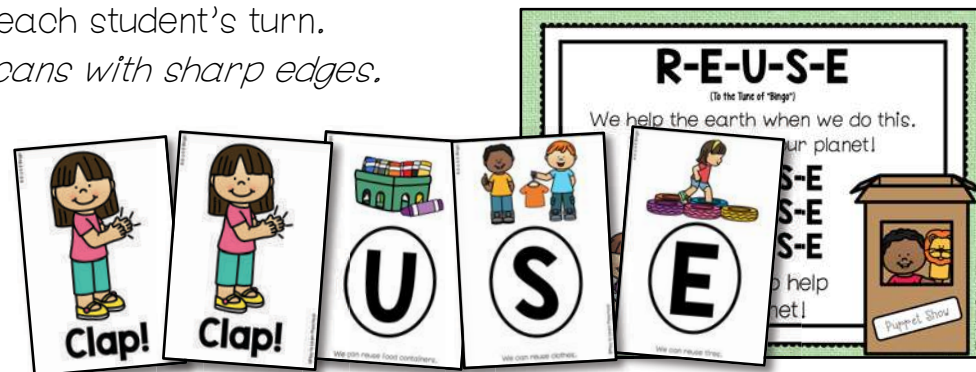
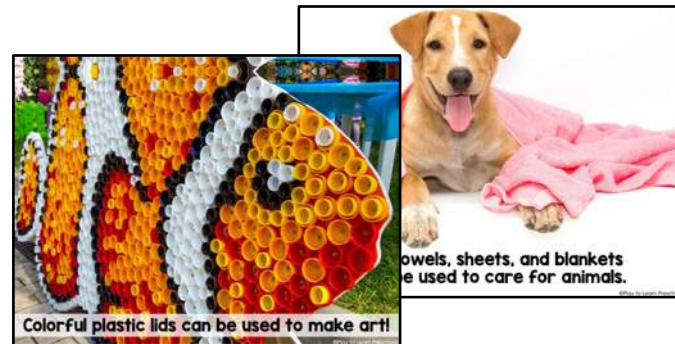
Reusing something means giving it a new purpose or giving something you no longer need to someone else who can use it. This helps the Earth by not sending more trash to the landfill.

Objectives:

- The students will use new vocabulary.
- The student will share and take turns with others.

Activities:

1. Show the real pictures of items being reused. Ask the students if they have donated toys to be reused.
2. Sing the R-E-U-S-E song to the tune of "Bingo." Display the letters and sing the song. After singing the first verse, cover up the letter R with a picture of the clapping child. Sing the second verse as "(clap)-E-U-S-E."
3. Bring clean, recyclable items to the circle. Chant the "Reuse It!" poem. Choose a student to come up, choose an item, then think of a way that item could be reused. Cards are also provided. Chant the poem between each student's turn.
**To prevent injuries, do not use glass or cans with sharp edges.*



Extension Ideas:

- Collect clean, non-glass recyclables and set up a tinkering station. Set the recyclables out with glue, tape, and string or ribbon for students to create structures.
- Arrange a classroom or school clothing drive, then drop items off at a local charity shop.



Colorful plastic lids can be reused to make art!



**Old towels, sheets, and blankets
can be reused to care for animals.**

R-E-U-S-E

(To the Tune of "Bingo")

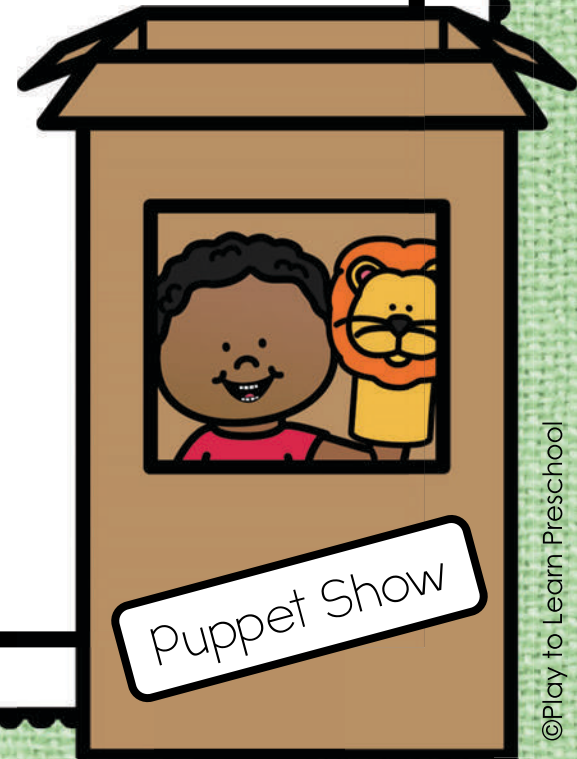
We help the earth when we do this.
We love to help our planet!

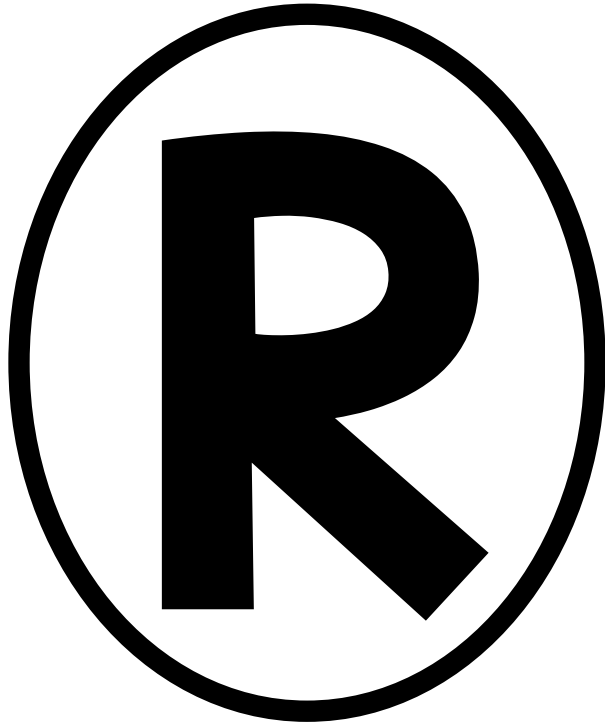
R-E-U-S-E

R-E-U-S-E

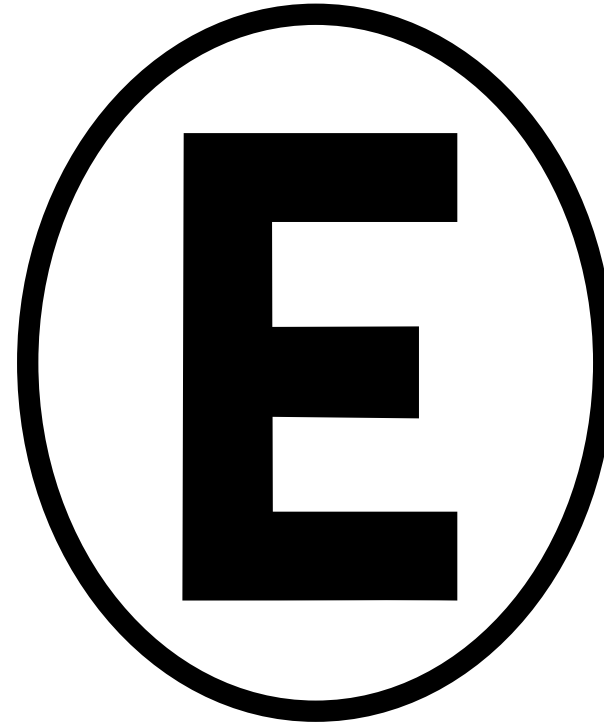
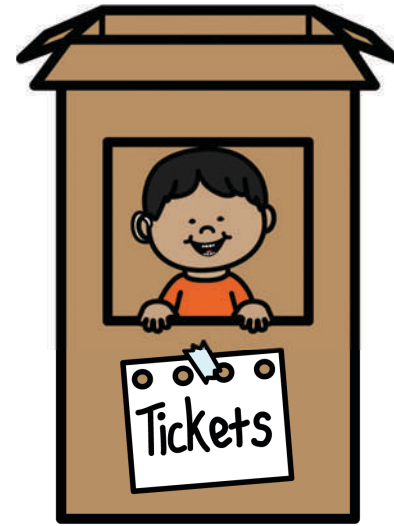
R-E-U-S-E

We love to help
our planet!





We can reuse a jar.



We can reuse a box.



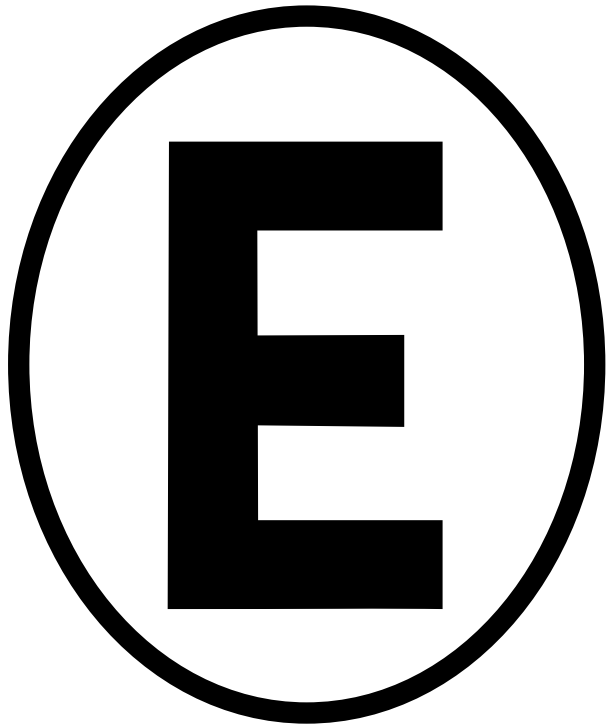
U

We can reuse food containers.

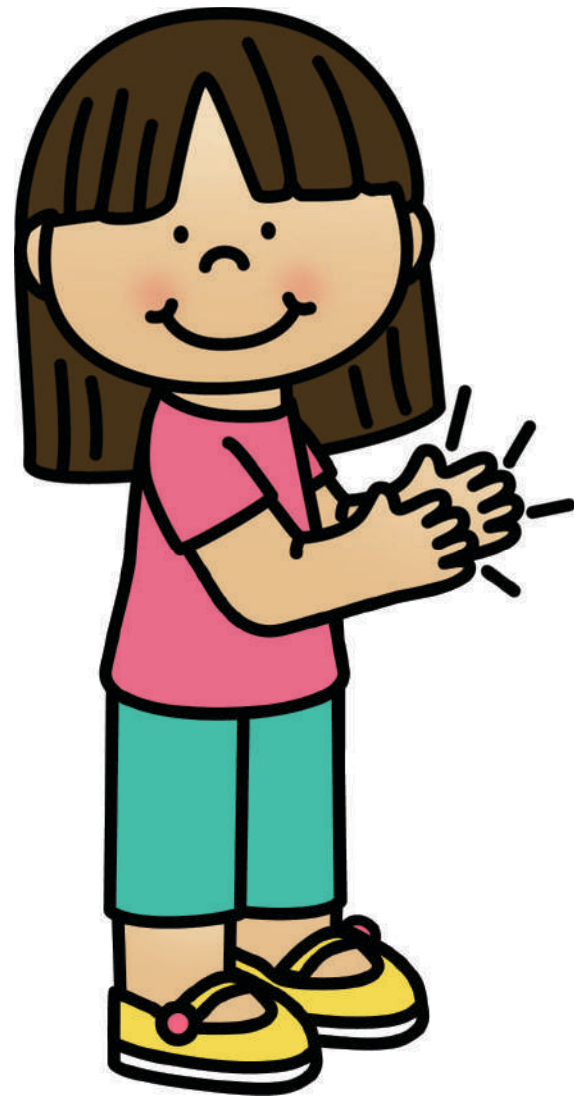


S

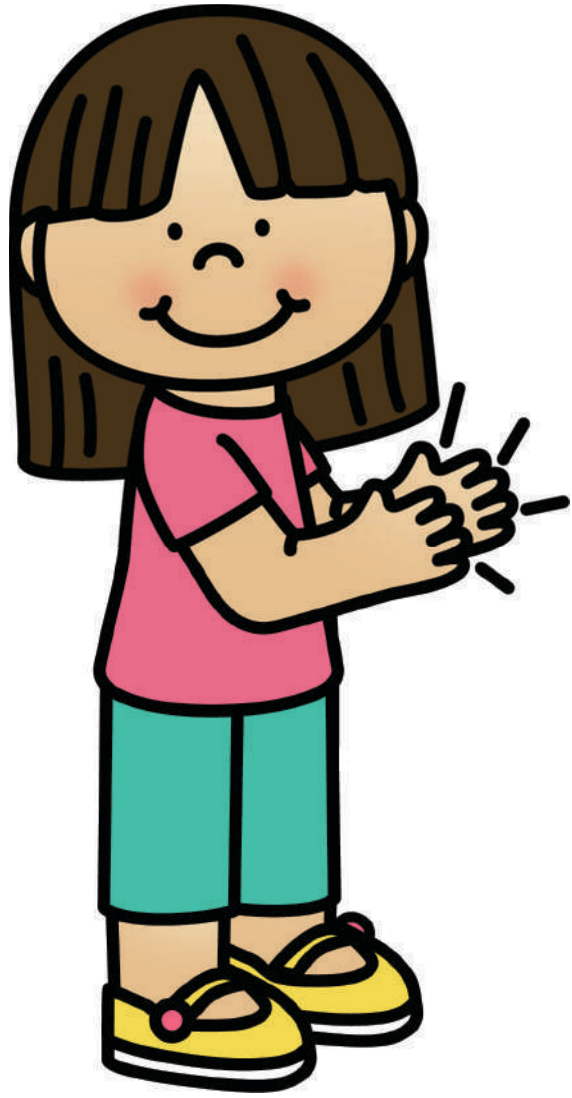
We can reuse clothes.



We can reuse tires.



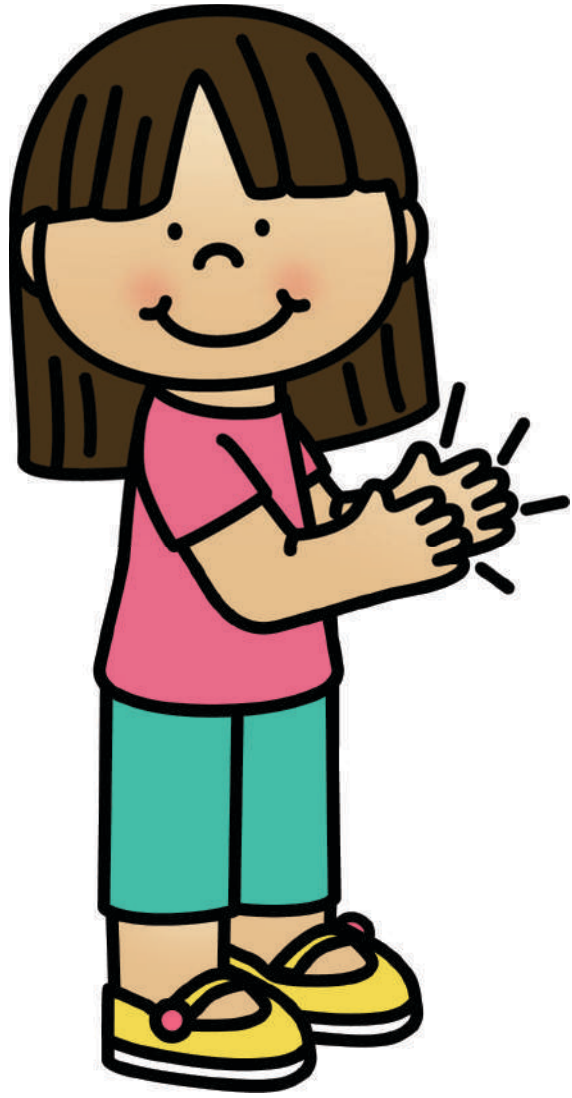
Clap!



Clap!



Clap!



Clap!



Clap!

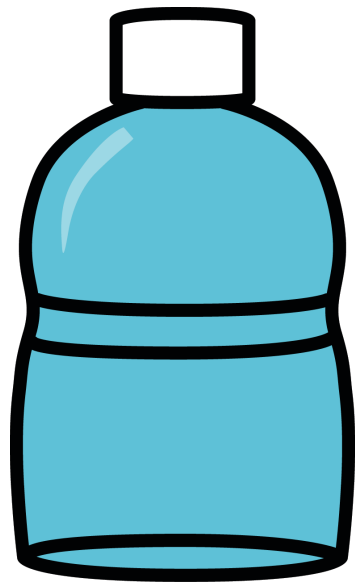
Reuse It!

Poem

Don't throw it away.
We can reuse it now.
Let's take a look
And figure out how.

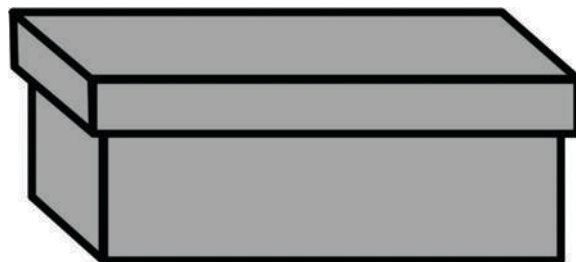


Reuse It!



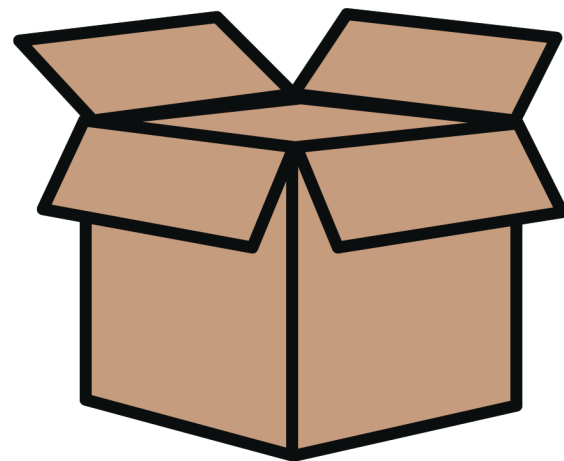
plastic bottle

Reuse It!



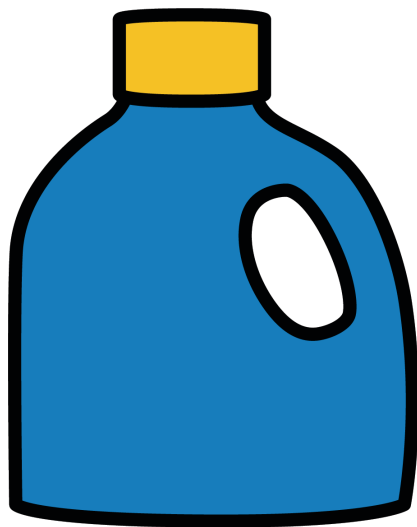
shoe box

Reuse It!



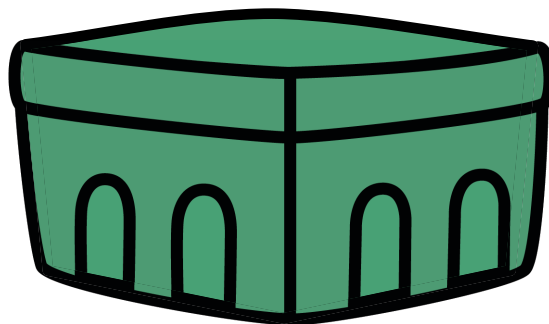
cardboard box

Reuse It!



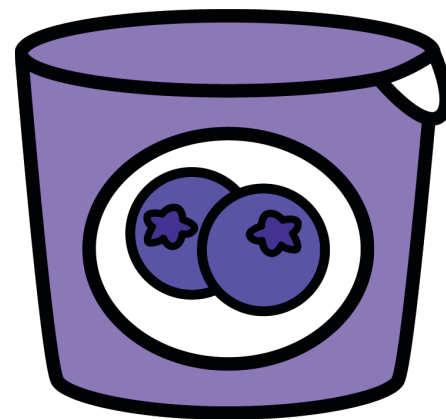
plastic laundry bottle

Reuse It!



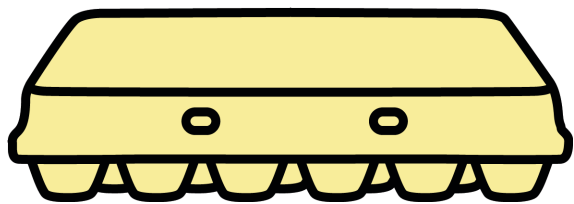
fruit container

Reuse It!



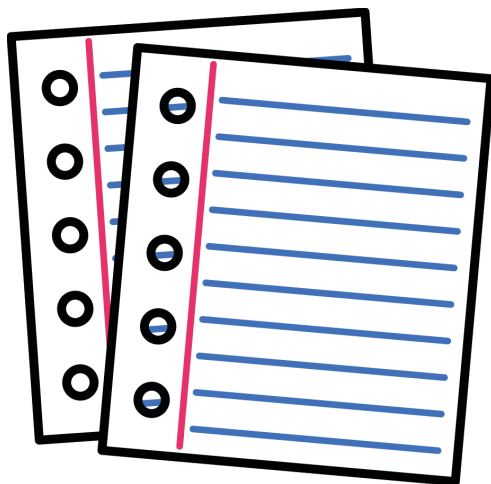
yogurt cup

Reuse It!



egg carton

Reuse It!



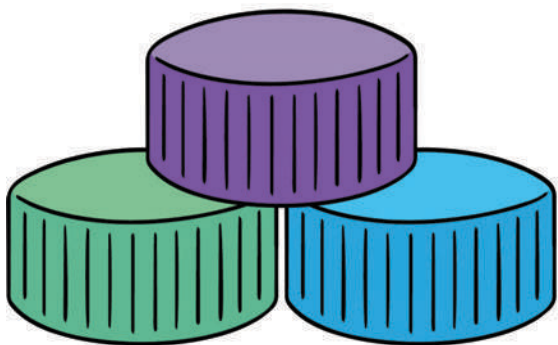
scrap paper

Reuse It!



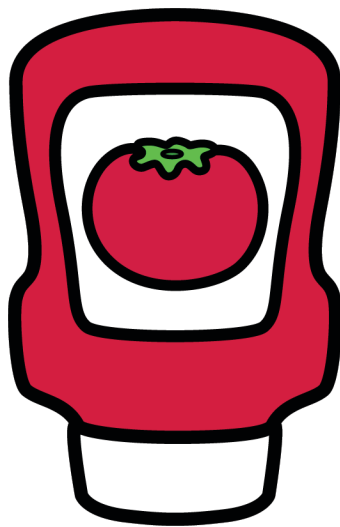
old blankets

Reuse It!



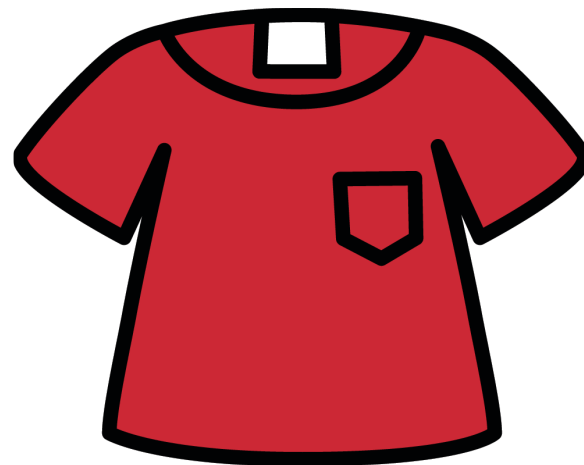
plastic bottle lids

Reuse It!



condiment bottles

Reuse It!



old t-shirts

Recycle

Making New Things

Day 4
lesson
plans

Recycling is the process of taking materials ready to be thrown away and changing them into something new. Things made of paper, glass, metal and plastic can be recycled. This helps keep trash out of landfills and is good for the planet.

Objectives:

- The students will actively participate in conversations.
- The students will recognize numbers.

Activities:

1. Show the real life photographs. Ask students why it is important to recycle (reduce waste). What types of things can be recycled?
2. Create riddle bags. Place small clean, recycled items inside each bag and attach the riddle. (As an alternative, you can print the pictures and put them inside the bags.)
**Use caution with cans or glass containers. Rough edges should not be used in the preschool classroom.*
3. Play the recycling carpet game.



Extension Idea:

Teach the ASL sign for **recycle**. Make the letter "R" with your dominant hand and then move the hand around in a circle.



To Play the Game:

- Line up the pictures of the recycling bins. Pick the right number of cards for your students. Identify the numbers together.
- Hide the water bottle under one of the bins and recite the poem to find it.
- Children guess where the water bottle is hiding by identifying the number on the bin.

Time to Recycle

It's time to recycle.
Where could the bottle be?



Pick a bin.
Let's look and see.



We can recycle plastic bottles.



We can recycle paper and cardboard.

Riddle #1

You can read this to find out what is happening around the world. It is mostly grey with words on it.

Answer: newspaper

Riddle #2

This is something you can use to drink from. It is clear with a round cap.

Answer: water bottle

Riddle #3

This item is in the shape of a cylinder. It can hold things like soda or vegetables.

Answer: aluminum can

Riddle #4

This item can hold many things. Sometimes you can get something delivered in this.

Answer: cardboard box

Riddle #5

Many types of foods and sauces come packaged in this. It is made from a very hard material that is breakable.

Answer: glass bottle

Riddle #6

The papers you use to dry your hands are wrapped around this.

Answer: paper towel roll

Riddle #7

This object holds the drink that comes from a cow. You can pour your drink from this container.

Answer: milk jug

Riddle #8

Grocery stores sometimes give you this to carry your items home. It can be used again or recycled.

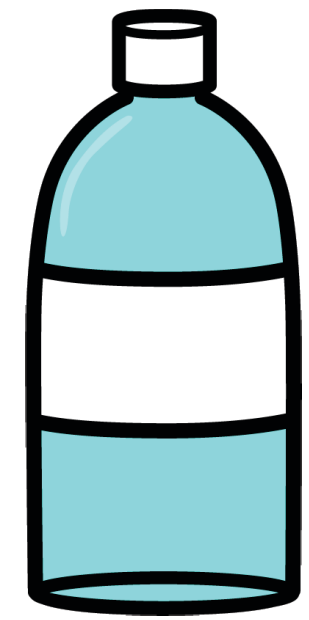
Answer: paper bag

Riddle #1



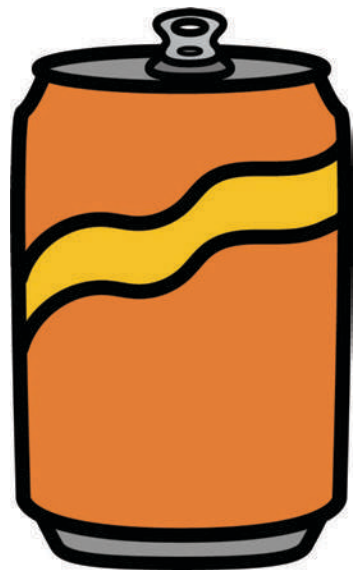
newspaper

Riddle #2



water bottle

Riddle #3



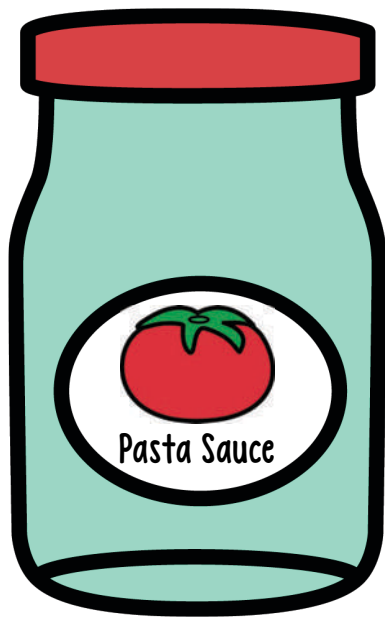
aluminum can

Riddle #4



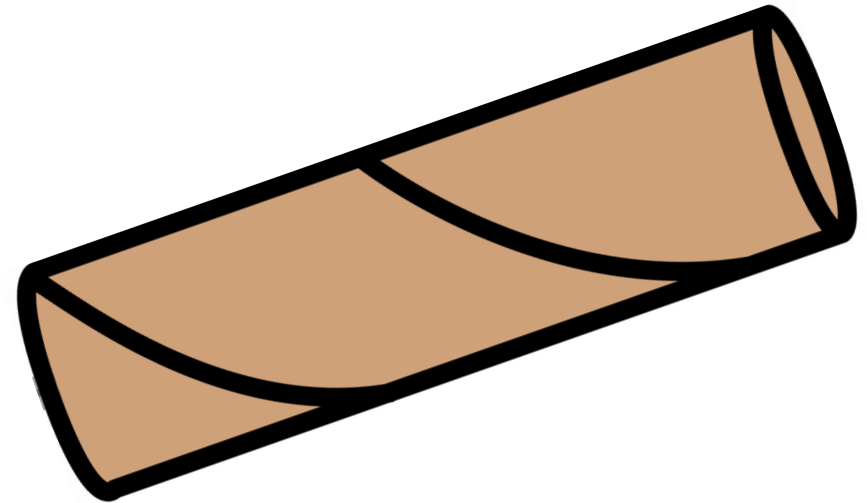
cardboard box

Riddle #5



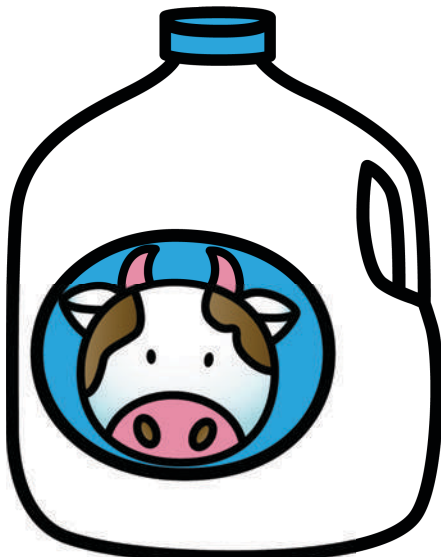
glass bottle

Riddle #6



paper towel roll

Riddle #7



milk jug

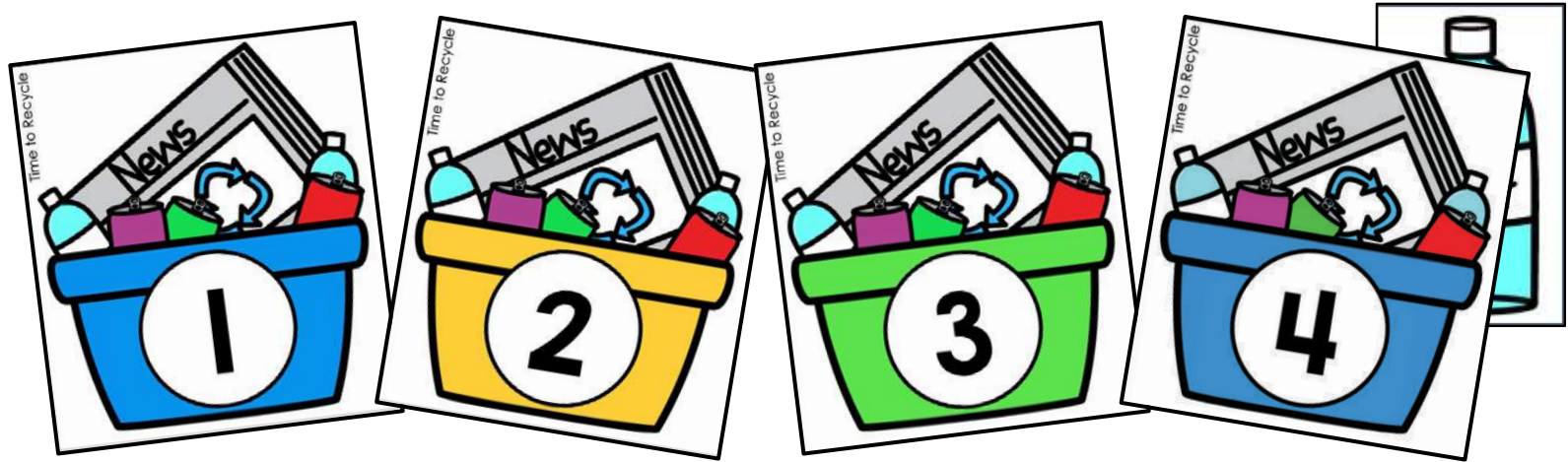
Riddle #8



paper bag

Time to Recycle

It's time to recycle.
Where could the bottle be?



Pick a bin.
Let's look and see.

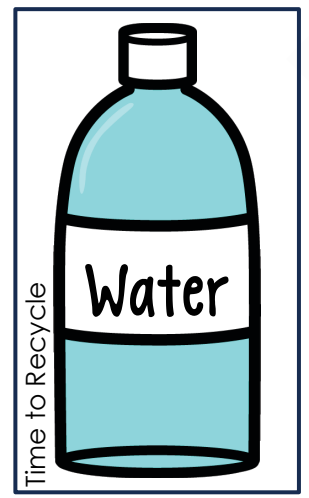








Cut out this plastic bottle.



Time to Recycle



Conclusion

What We Have Learned

Day 5
lesson
plans

Reducing, reusing, and recycling are all great ways to help the planet. Small changes can make a big difference!

Objectives:

- The students will demonstrate an understanding of print concepts.
- The students will notice and extend simple patterns.

Activities:

1. Discuss the different ways you've learned to reduce, reuse, and recycle from the unit. What ways have students started to implement these things within the classroom or at home?
2. Go on a recycling scavenger hunt in the classroom. Hide the real pictures of the recycled items around the room. Give each child a recording sheet. Circle or color each picture as it is "found."
*Alternatively, place clean, recycled items around the room for students to find and bring to a recycling bin. *To prevent injuries, do not use glass or cans with sharp edges.*
3. Sing the song, "We Can Help!"
Picture cards are included for each verses.

Extension Idea:

Teach the ASL sign for Earth. Use the thumb and index finger on the dominant hand to pinch the other hand's wrist and rock fingers back and forth.



Recycling Scavenger Hunt



We Can Help!

To the Tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb"

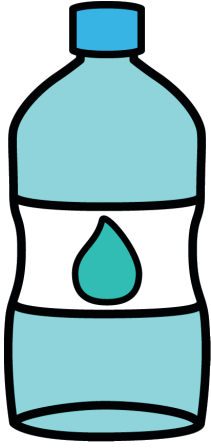
We can help the Earth, oh yeah!
Earth, oh yeah! Earth, oh yeah!
We can help the Earth, oh yeah!
We'd love to tell you how!

We recycle cans, oh yeah!
Cans, oh yeah! Cans, oh yeah!
We recycle cans, oh yeah!
It's how we help the Earth!

©Play to Learn Preschool



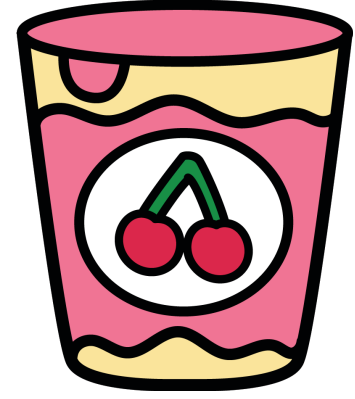
Recycling Scavenger Hunt



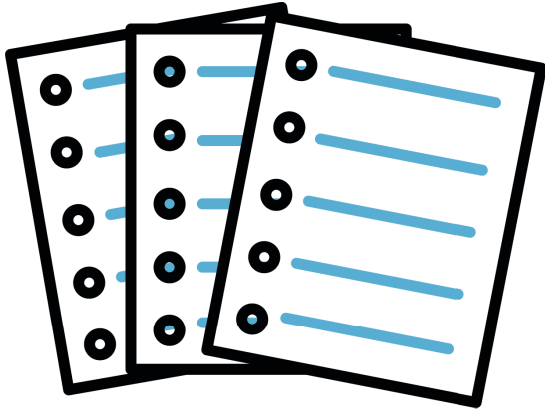
water bottle



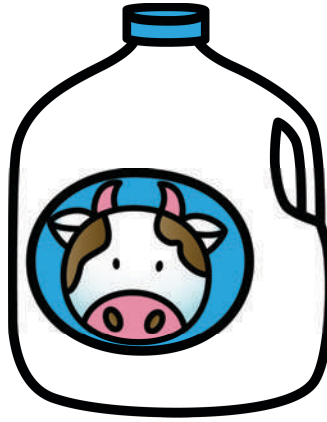
cardboard
box



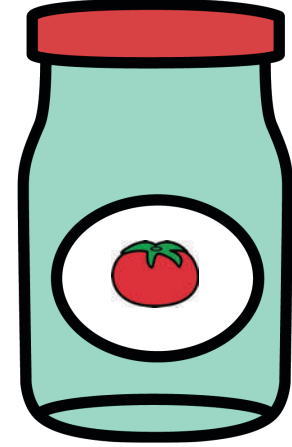
plastic cup



paper

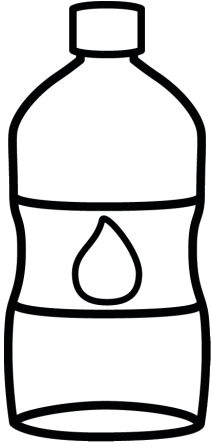


plastic jug

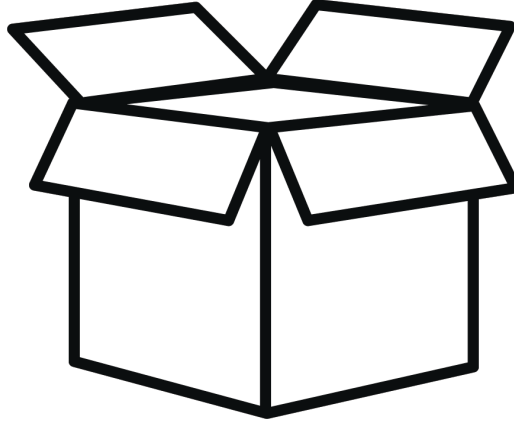


glass jar

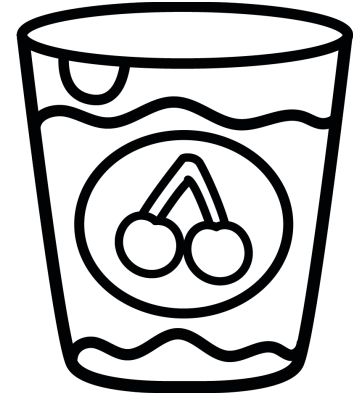
Recycling Scavenger Hunt



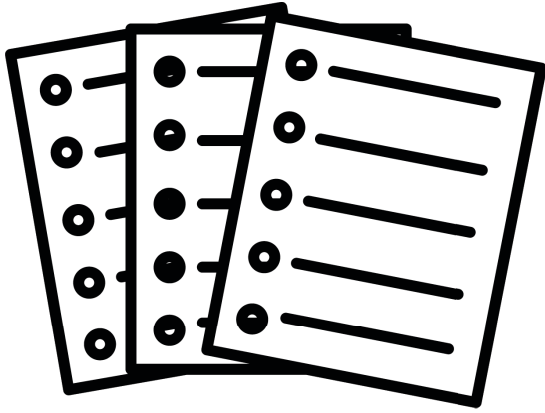
water bottle



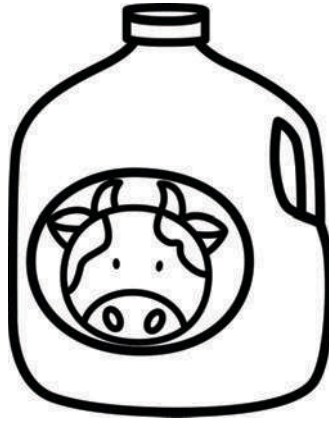
cardboard
box



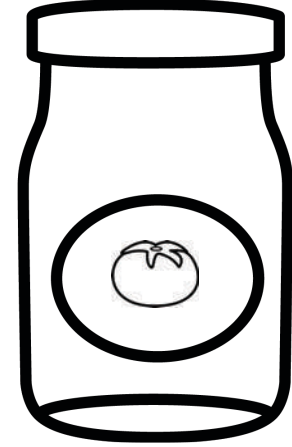
plastic cup



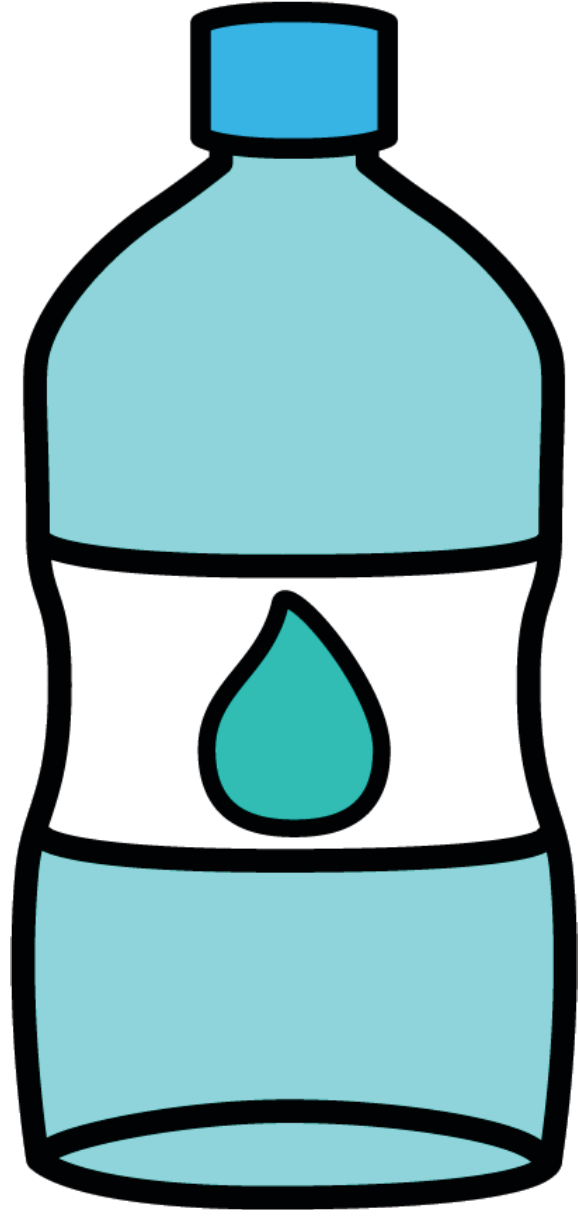
paper



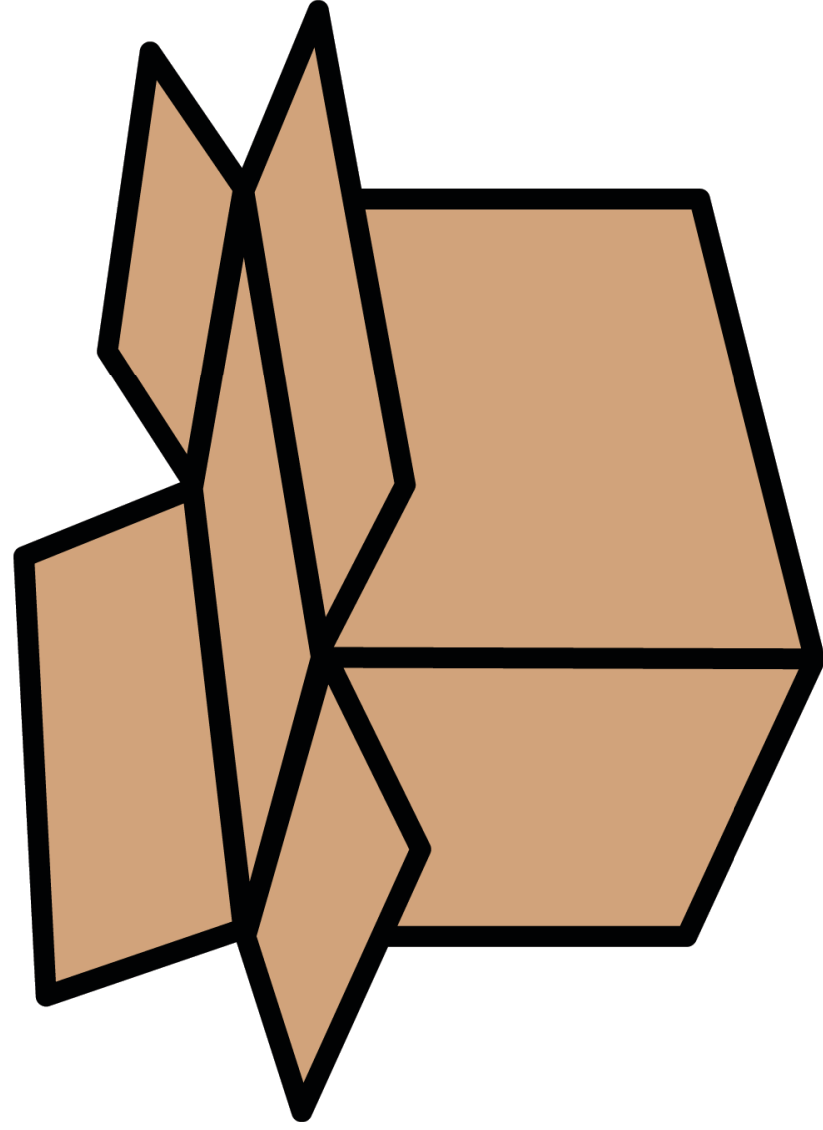
plastic jug



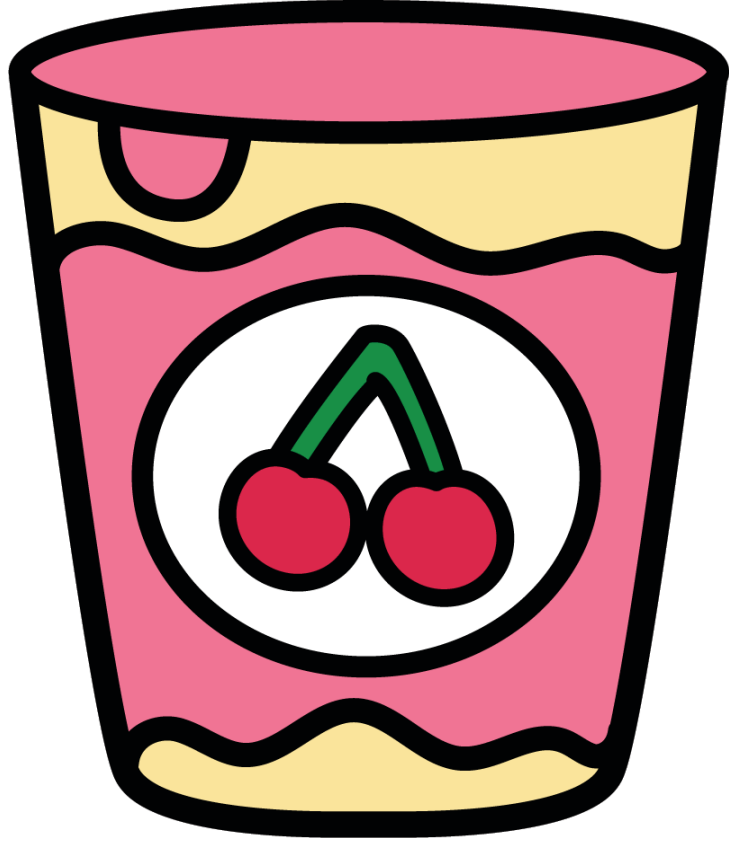
glass jar



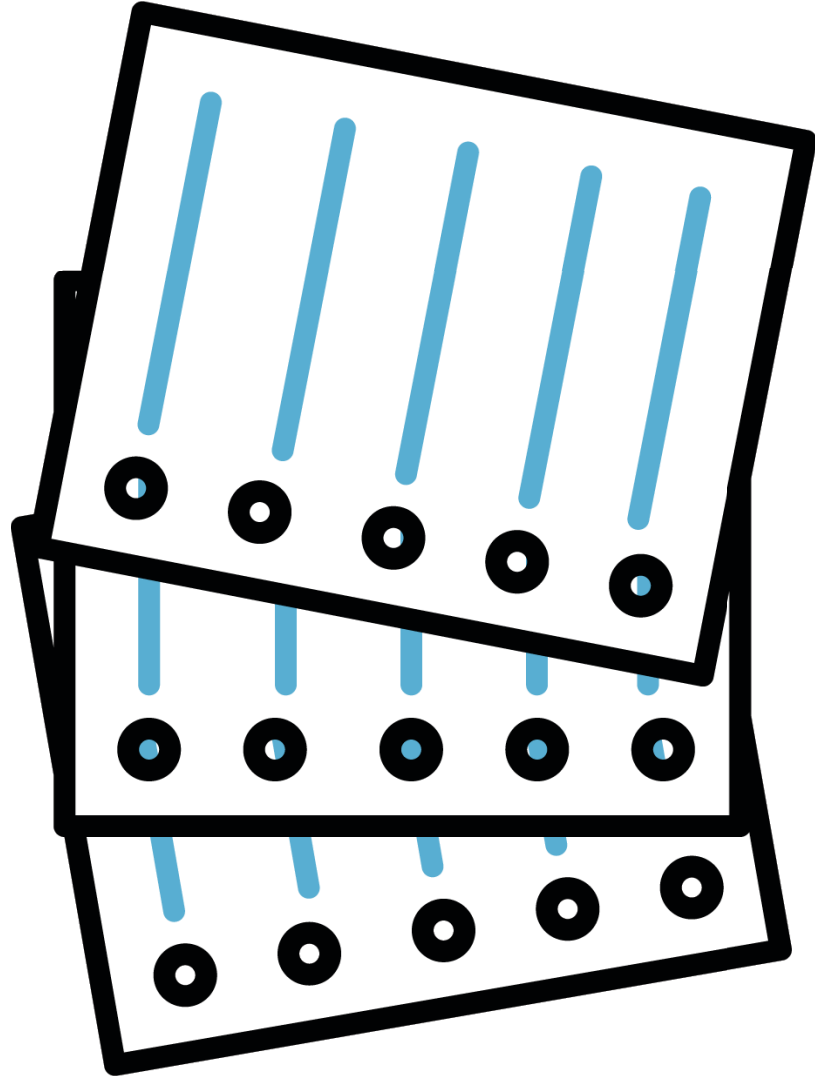
water bottle



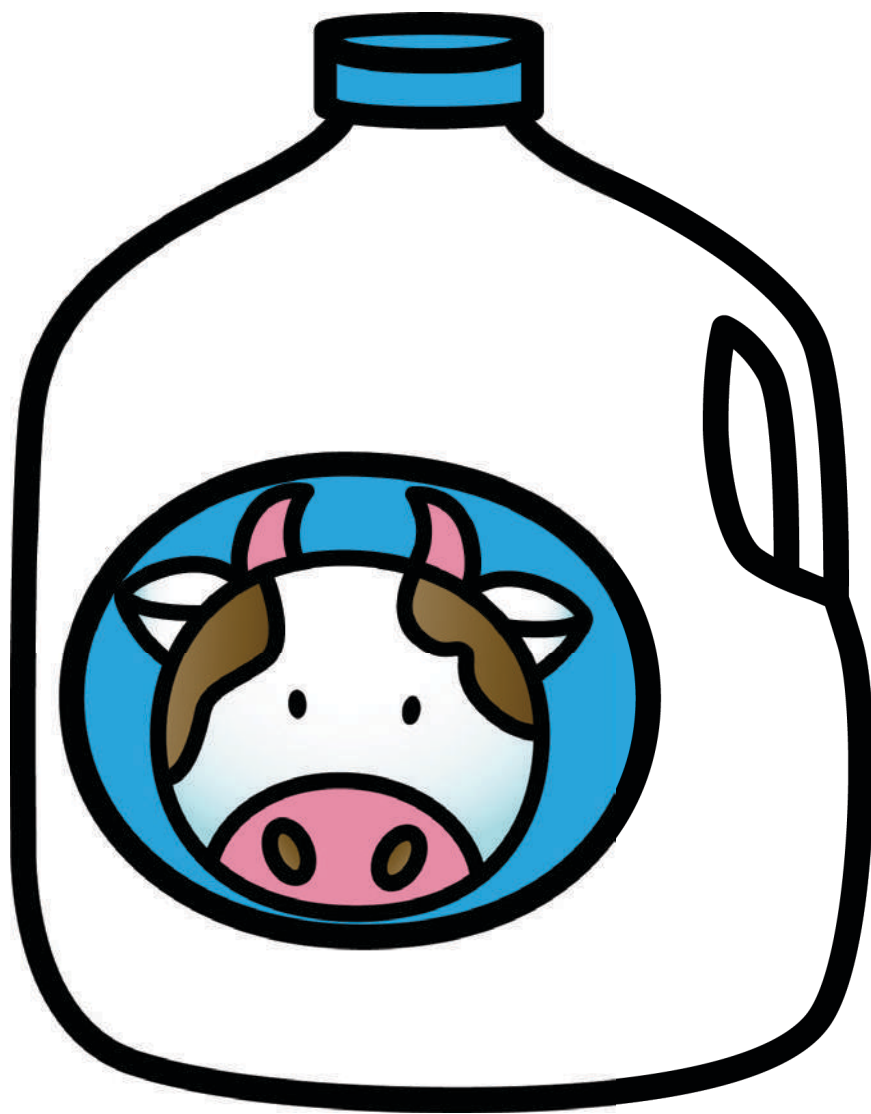
cardboard box



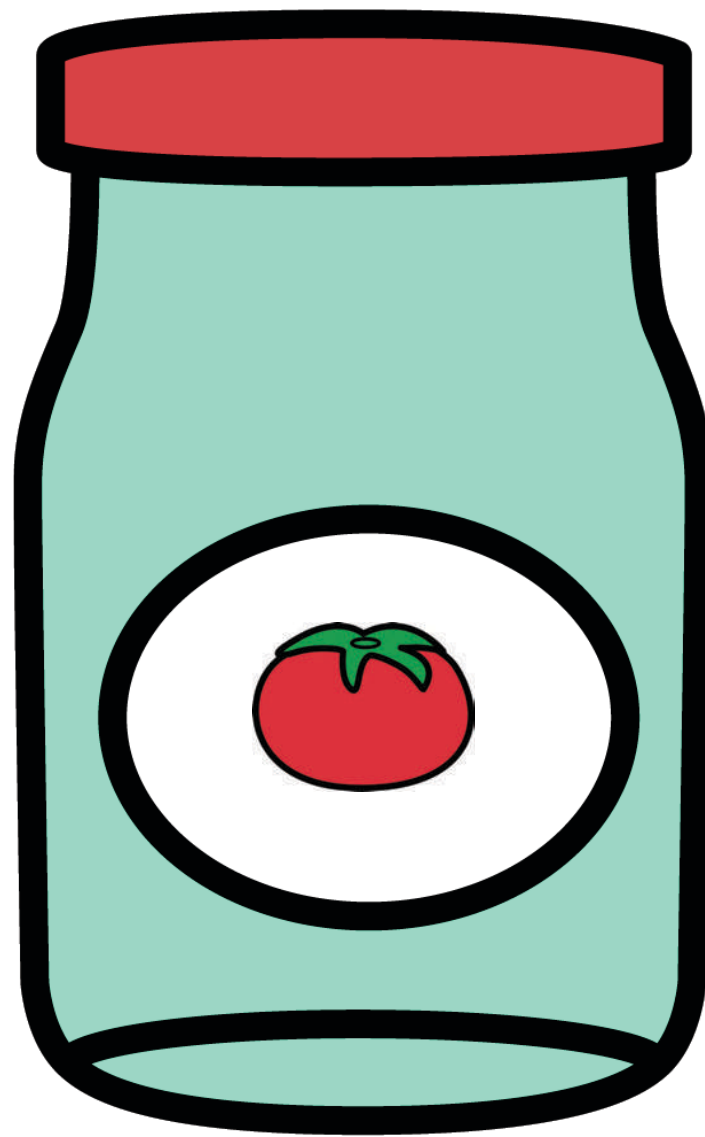
plastic cup



paper



plastic jug



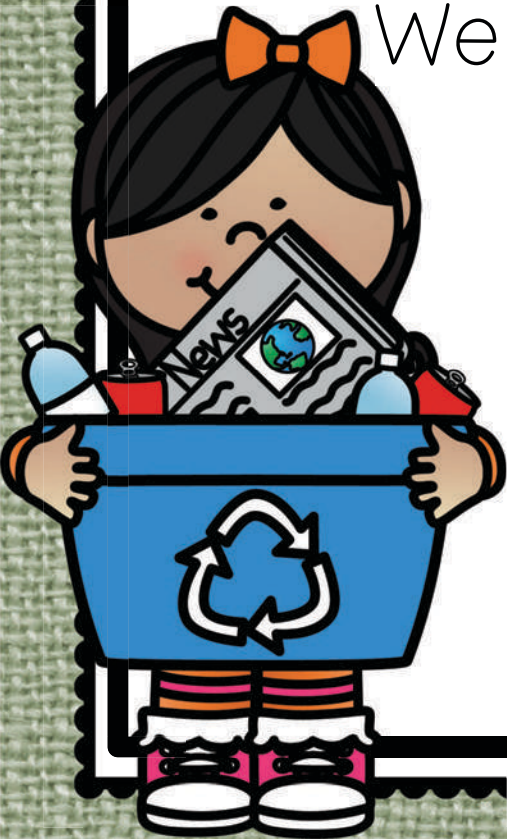
glass jar

We Can Help!

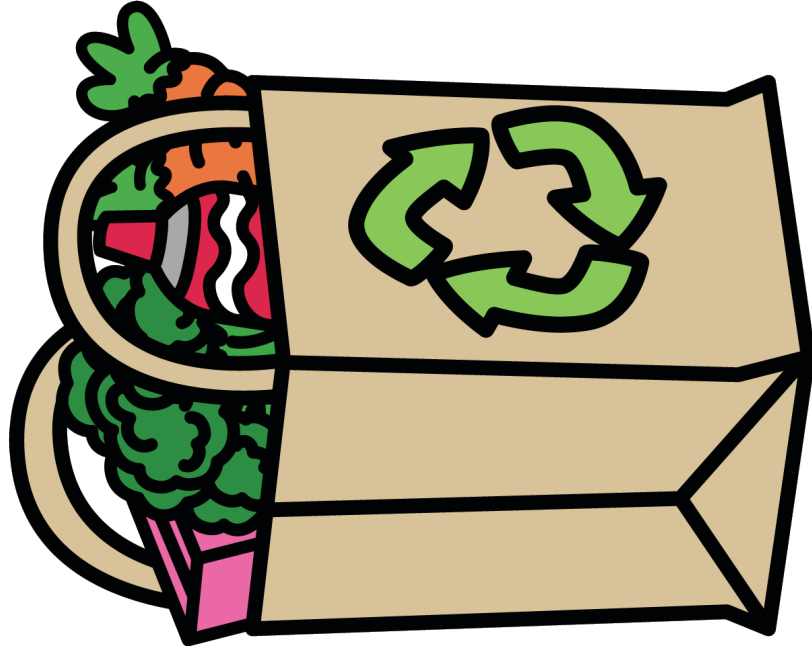
To the Tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb"

We can help the Earth, oh yeah!
Earth, oh yeah! Earth, oh yeah!
We can help the Earth, oh yeah!
We'd love to tell you how!

We recycle cans, oh yeah!
Cans, oh yeah! Cans, oh yeah!
We recycle cans, oh yeah!
It's how we help the Earth!

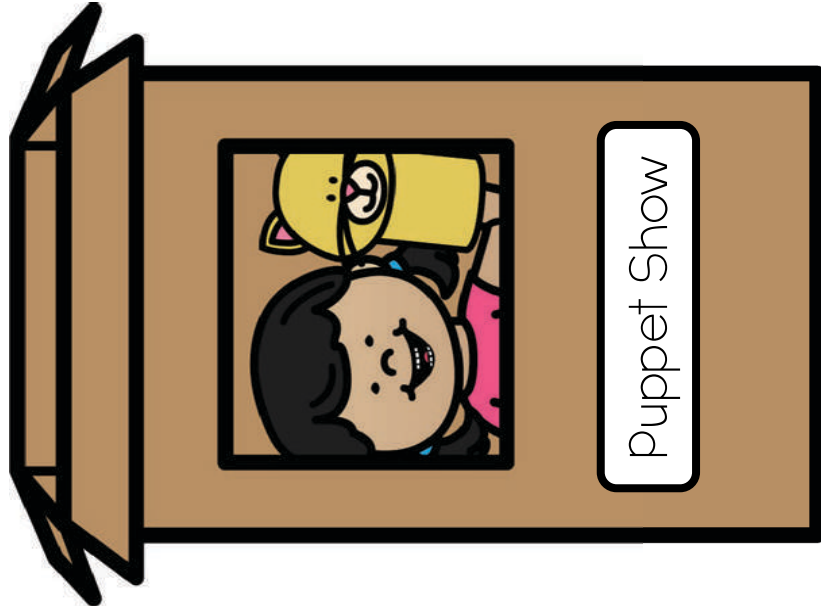


Help the Earth!



use paper bags

Help the Earth!



reuse boxes

Help the Earth!



recycle cans

Help the Earth!



turn off the lights

Centers

- Push Pin Letters
- Number Recognition
- Word Strips
- Counting Folder Game
- Picture Puzzles

Push Pin Letters

Literacy Center

Objective: The students will manipulate objects with hands.
Preparation: Copy each page onto cardstock. Provide push pins (**Supervise students appropriately,**) and a carpet square or foam mat to place underneath.
Procedure: The students strengthen their fine motor skills and alphabet knowledge by perforating the letters using a push pin (or golf tee or a toothpick).

Number Recognition

Math Center

Objective: The students will recognize numbers.
Preparation: Print, mat, laminate, and cut both the small and large number cards.

Procedure: Of your students. T and match it to t

Word Strips

Literacy Center

Objective: The students will recognize letters of the alphabet.
Preparation: Print the word strips and letters, then cut apart.
Procedure: Students will match the letters to the word strip.

Helpful Hint: Attach a small pocket or envelope to the back of the sentence strip to store the letters.

Counting

Objectives:

- The students will demonstrate one-to-one correspondence.
- The students will count sets and make combinations of objects to create each.

Preparation: Print, mat, cut out, and laminate the cover page, counting mat, number cards, and bottle cards. Use envelopes to store the cards.

Procedure: The students will choose a number from the pile and place that many bottles above the bin.

Picture Puzzles

Fine Motor

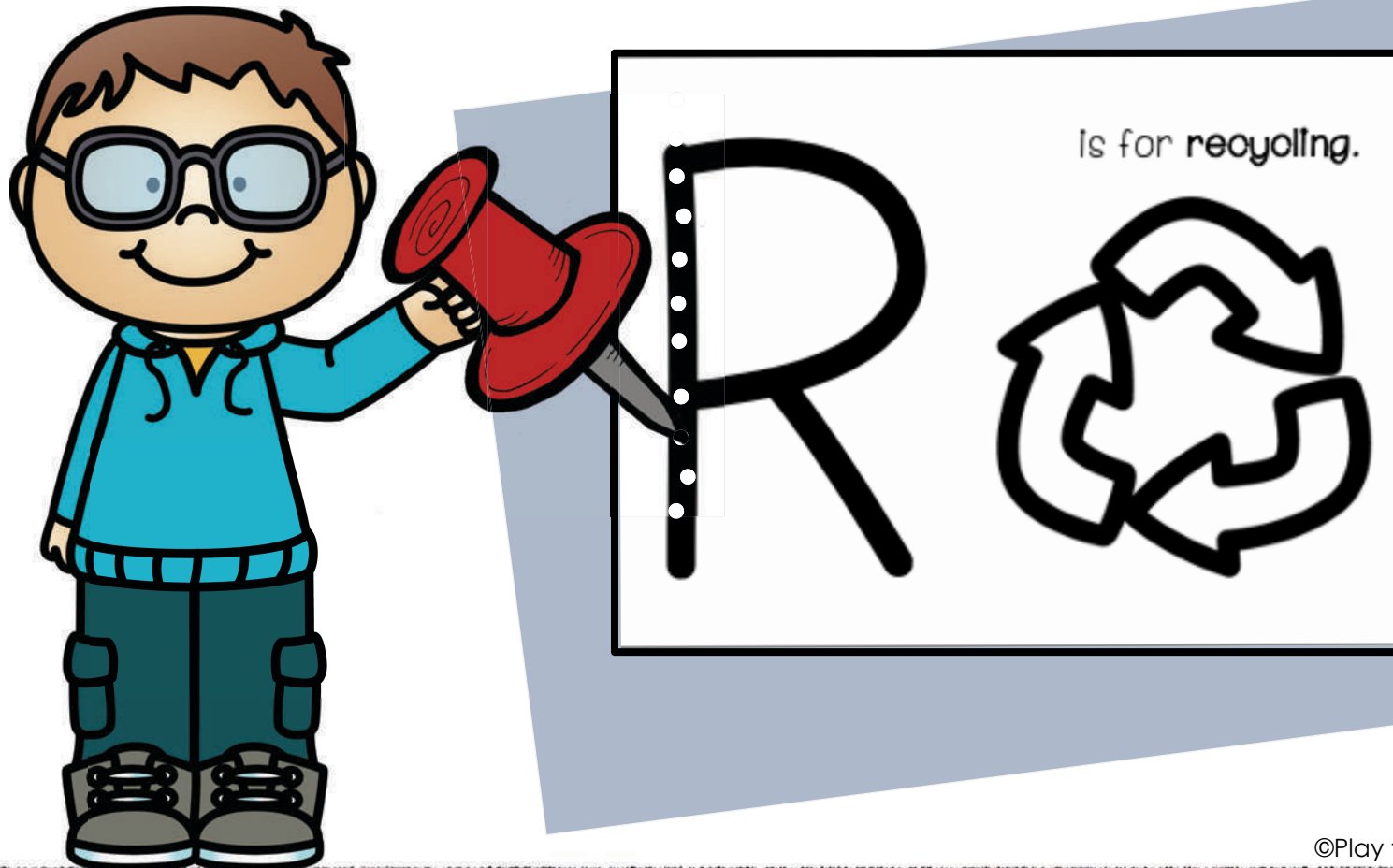
Objective: The students use hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills to assemble a puzzle.
Preparation: Copy each page, mat, cut, and laminate as desired.
Procedure: Students match the puzzle pieces together.

Push Pin Letters

Objective: The students will manipulate objects with hands.

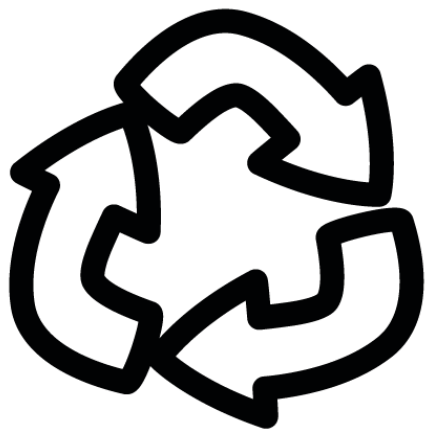
Preparation: Copy each page onto cardstock. Provide push pins (**Supervise students appropriately.***) and a carpet square or foam mat to place underneath.

Procedure: The students strengthen their fine motor skills and alphabet knowledge by perforating the letters using a push pin (or golf tee or a toothpick).



R

is for recycling.



B

is for bin.



C

is for can.

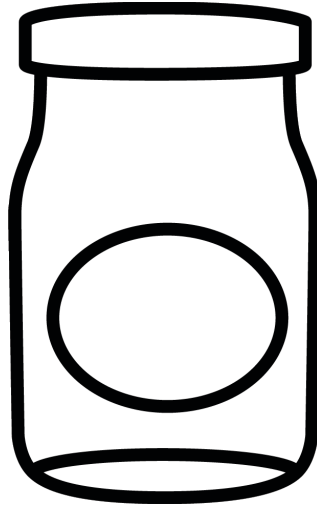
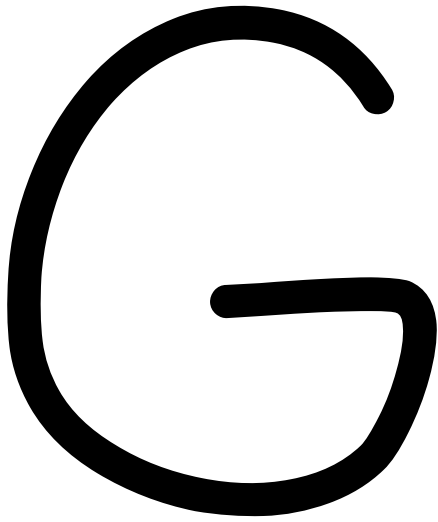


P

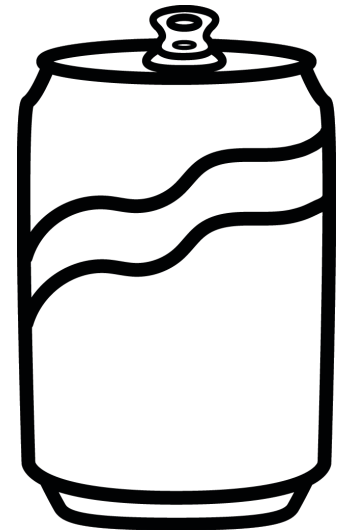
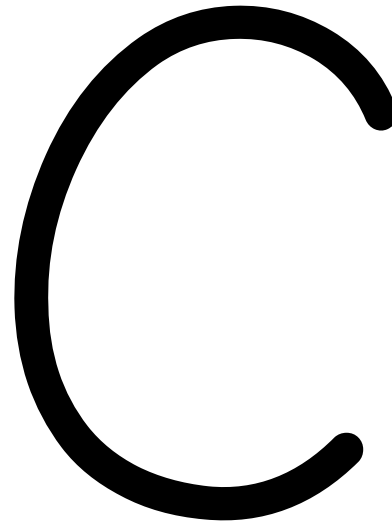
is for paper



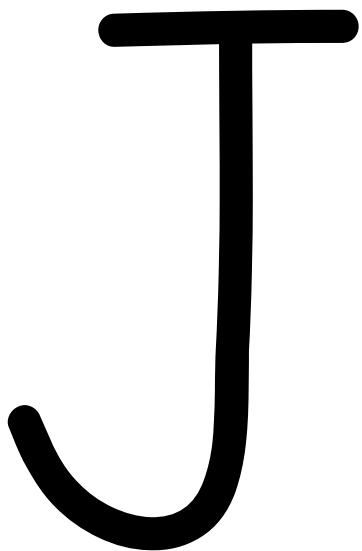
is for glass.



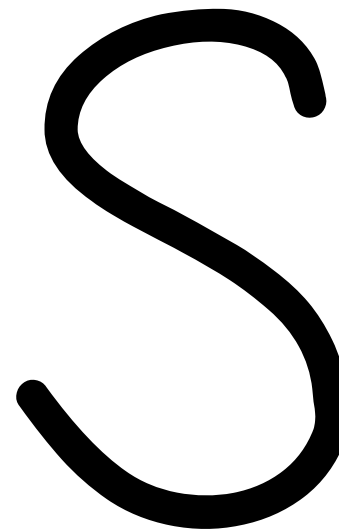
is for can.



is for jug.



is for sort



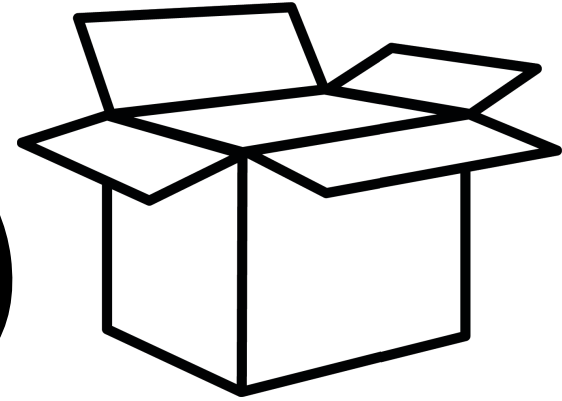
is for Earth.

E



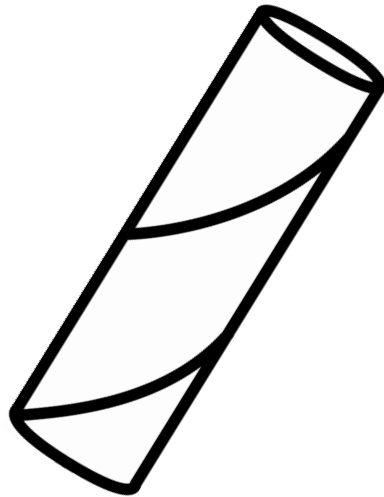
is for box.

B



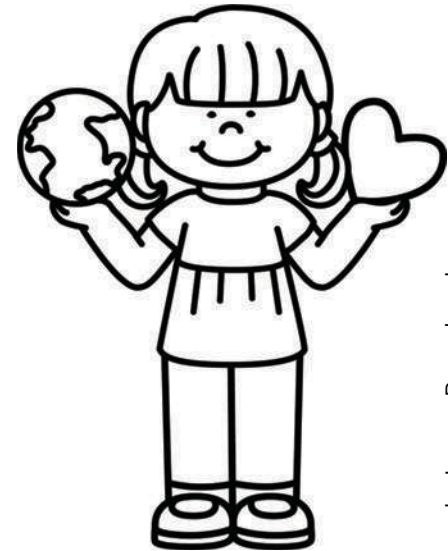
is for roll.

R



is for help

H



Number Recognition

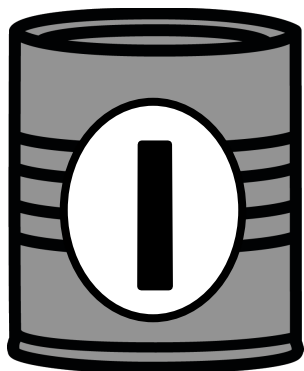
Objective: The students will recognize numbers.

Preparation: Print, mat, laminate, and cut both the small and large number cards.



Procedure: Choose the appropriate number of cards for your students. The students will select a small number card and match it to the larger number card accordingly.

Number Recognition



can

Number Recognition



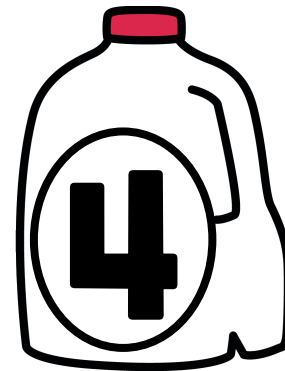
glass

Number Recognition



box

Number Recognition



plastic

Number Recognition



can

Number Recognition



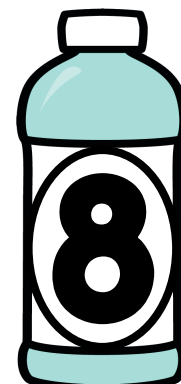
glass

Number Recognition



box

Number Recognition



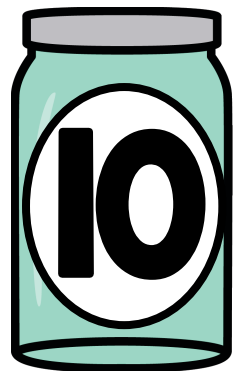
plastic

Number Recognition



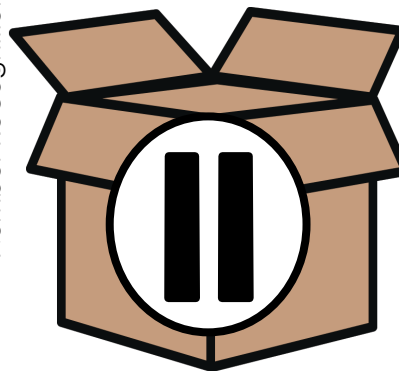
can

Number Recognition



glass

Number Recognition



box

Number Recognition



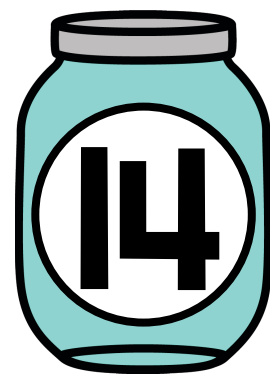
plastic

Number Recognition



can

Number Recognition



glass

Number Recognition



paper

Number Recognition



plastic

Number Recognition



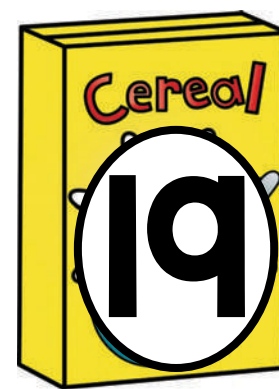
can

Number Recognition



glass

Number Recognition



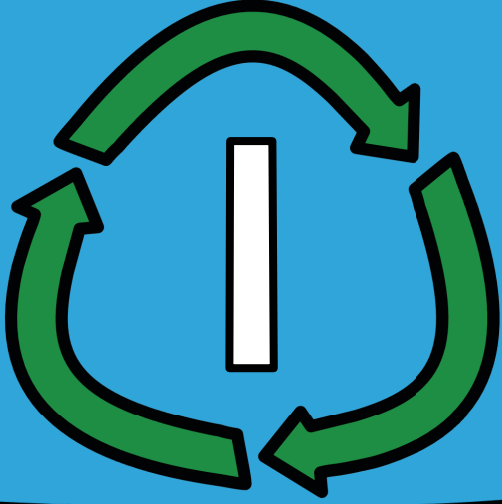
box

Number Recognition



plastic

Number Recognition



Number Recognition



Number Recognition



Number Recognition



Number Recognition



Number Recognition



Number Recognition



Number Recognition



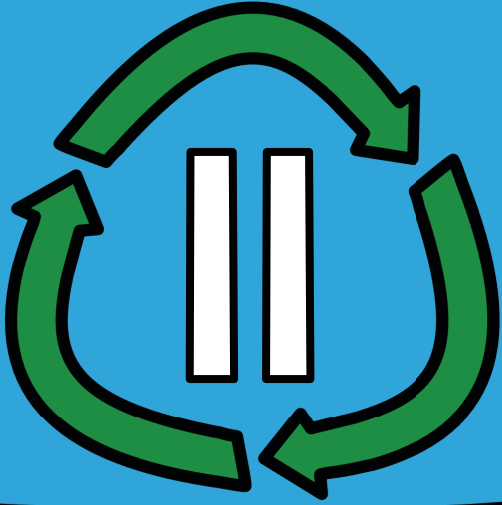
Number Recognition



Number Recognition



Number Recognition



Number Recognition



Number Recognition



Number Recognition



Number Recognition



Number Recognition



Number Recognition



Number Recognition



Number Recognition



Number Recognition



Name _____

Draw a line to connect the matching numbers.



2

4

5

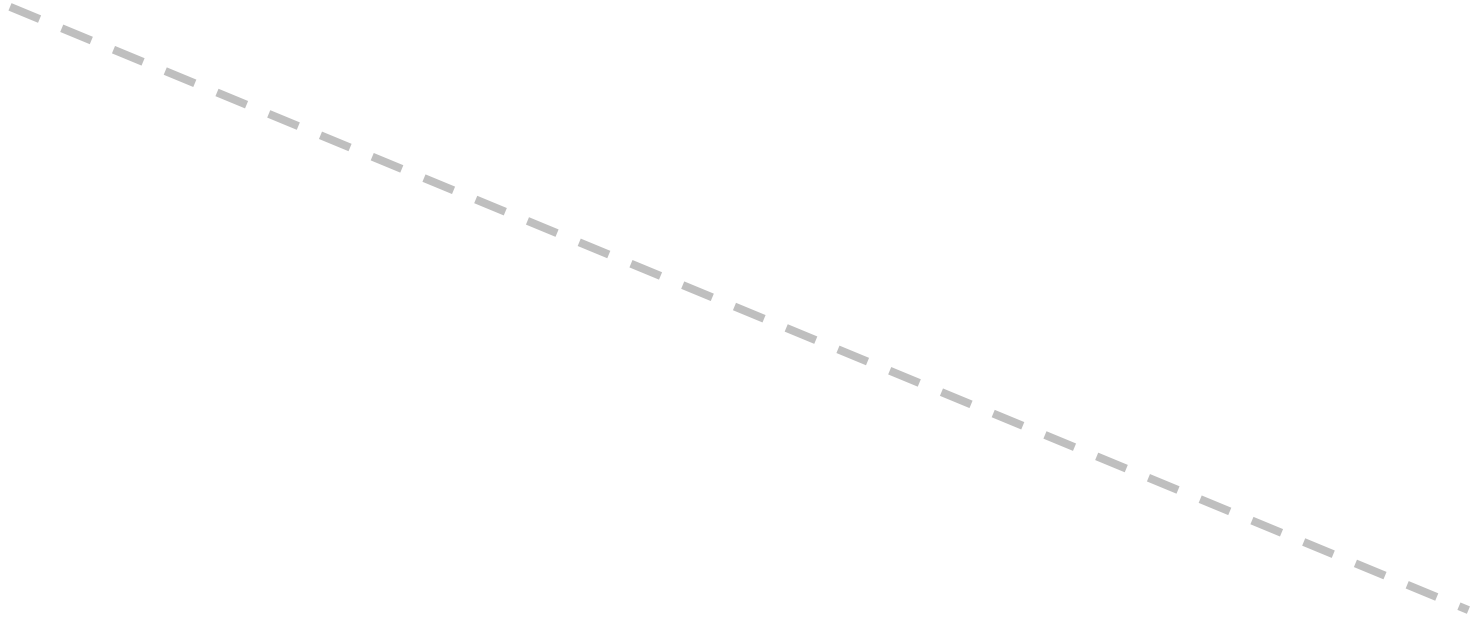
3

5

3

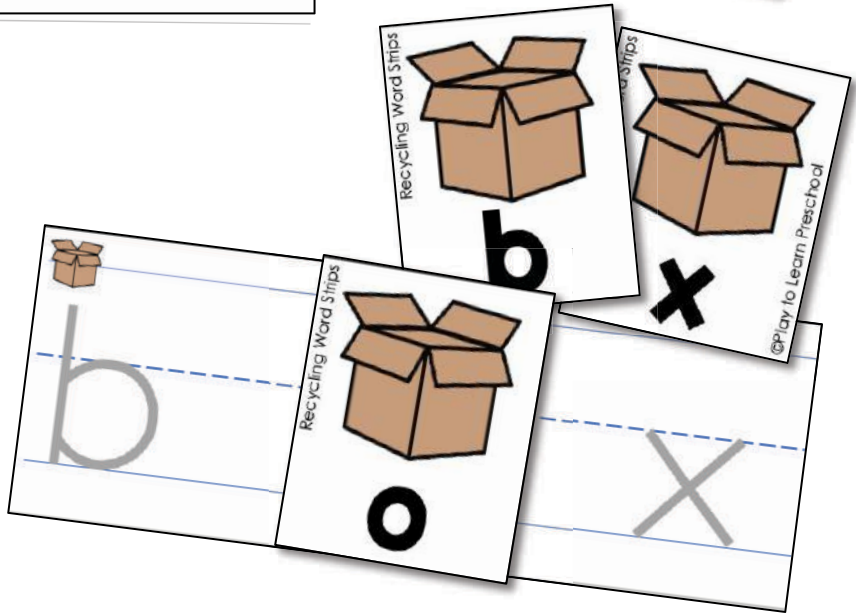
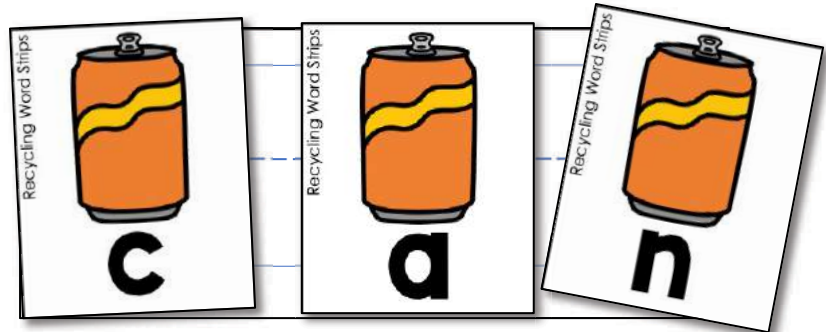
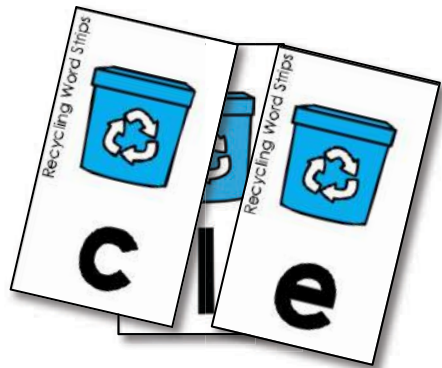
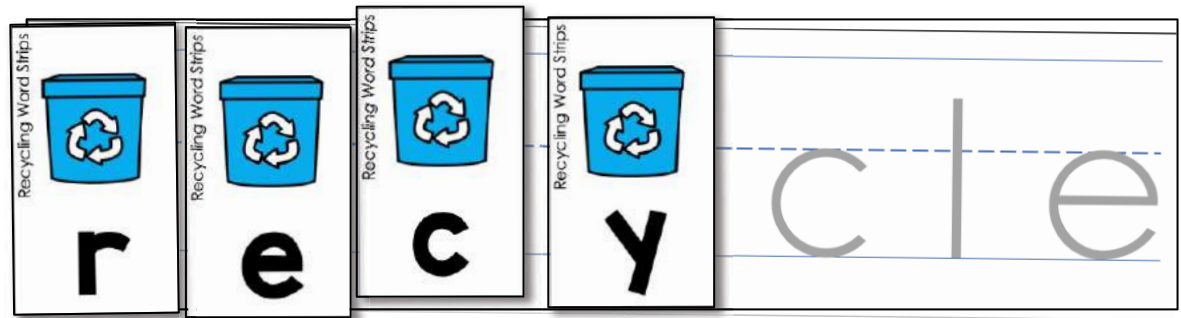
2

4

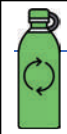


Word Strips

Objective: The students will recognize letters of the alphabet.
Preparation: Print the word strips and letters, then cut apart.
Procedure: Students will match the letters to the word strip.



Helpful Hint:
Attach a small pocket or envelope to the back of the sentence strip to store the letters.



r e d u c e



r e u s e



r e c y c l e



b o t t l e



c a n



b o x

Recycling Word Strips



r

Recycling Word Strips



e

Recycling Word Strips



c

Recycling Word Strips



y

Recycling Word Strips



c

Recycling Word Strips



i

Recycling Word Strips



e

Recycling Word Strips



r

Recycling Word Strips



e

Recycling Word Strips



u

Recycling Word Strips



s

Recycling Word Strips



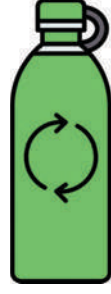
e

Recycling Word Strips



r

Recycling Word Strips



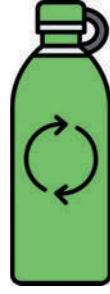
e

Recycling Word Strips



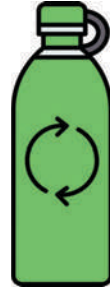
d

Recycling Word Strips



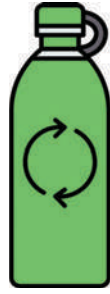
u

Recycling Word Strips



c

Recycling Word Strips



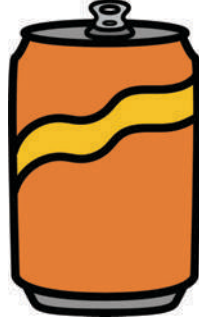
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Recycling Word Strips



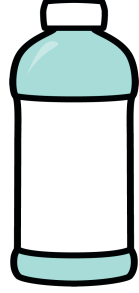
b

Recycling Word Strips



c

Recycling Word Strips



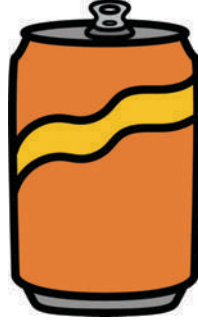
b

Recycling Word Strips



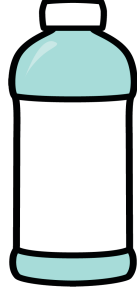
o

Recycling Word Strips



a

Recycling Word Strips



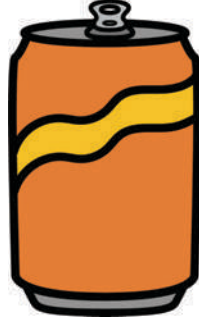
o

Recycling Word Strips



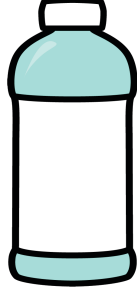
x

Recycling Word Strips



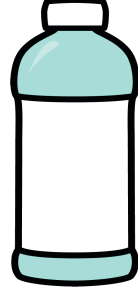
n

Recycling Word Strips



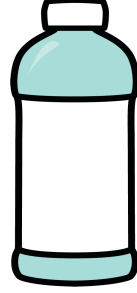
t

Recycling Word Strips



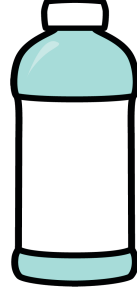
t

Recycling Word Strips



i

Recycling Word Strips



e

Counting

Objectives:

- The students will demonstrate one-to-one correspondence.
- The students will count sets and make combinations of objects to create each set.

Preparation: Print, mat, cut out, and laminate the cover page, counting mat, number cards, and bottle cards. Use envelopes to store the cards.



Counting

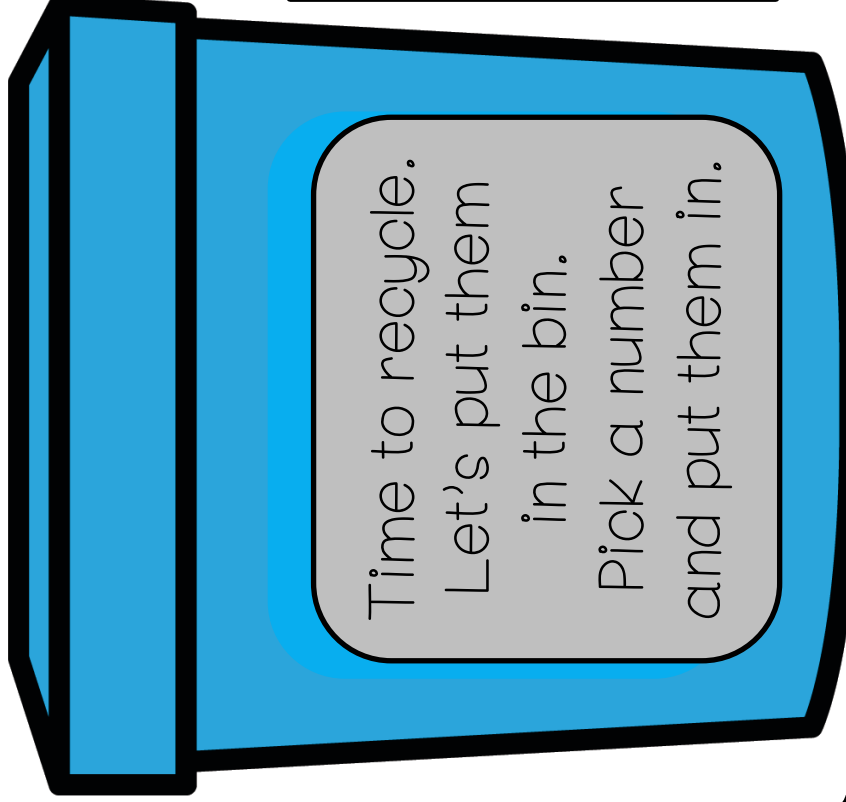
Procedure: The students will choose a number from the pile and place that many bottles above the bin.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



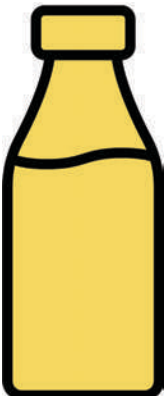


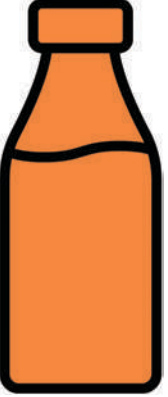
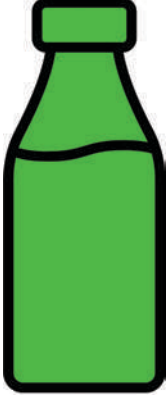
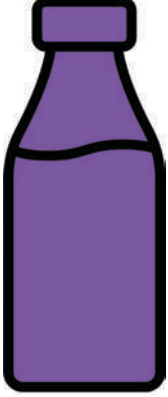
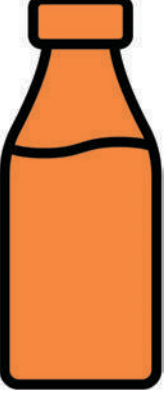



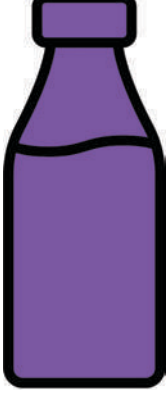
Counting

How many bottles will you recycle?




Time to recycle.
Let's put them
in the bin.
Pick a number
and put them in.

Mix the number
cards up. Pick a
number card and
place it here. Count
the bottles and add
them above the
bin. Repeat with the
next card.

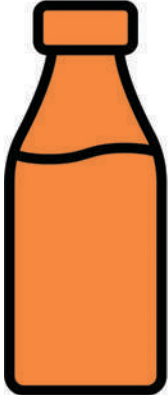
Recycle Counting  red bottle	Recycle Counting  orange bottle	Recycle Counting  yellow bottle	Recycle Counting  green bottle	Recycle Counting  blue bottle	Recycle Counting  purple bottle
Recycle Counting  red bottle	Recycle Counting  orange bottle	Recycle Counting  yellow bottle	Recycle Counting  green bottle	Recycle Counting  blue bottle	Recycle Counting  purple bottle
Recycle Counting  red bottle	Recycle Counting  orange bottle	Recycle Counting  yellow bottle	Recycle Counting  green bottle	Recycle Counting  blue bottle	Recycle Counting  purple bottle

Recycle Counting



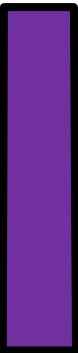
red bottle

Recycle Counting




orange bottle

Recycle Counting




1

Recycle Counting




2

Recycle Counting




3

Recycle Counting




4

Recycle Counting




5

Recycle Counting



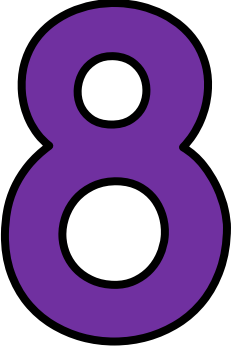
6

Recycle Counting



7

Recycle Counting



8

Recycle Counting

17

Recycle Counting

13

Recycle Counting

9

Recycle Counting

18

Recycle Counting

14

Recycle Counting

10

Recycle Counting

19

Recycle Counting

15

Recycle Counting

11

Recycle Counting

20

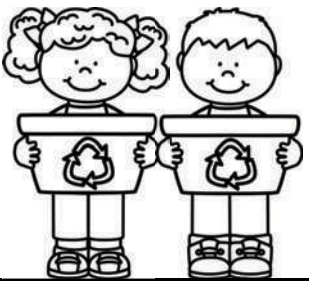
Recycle Counting

16

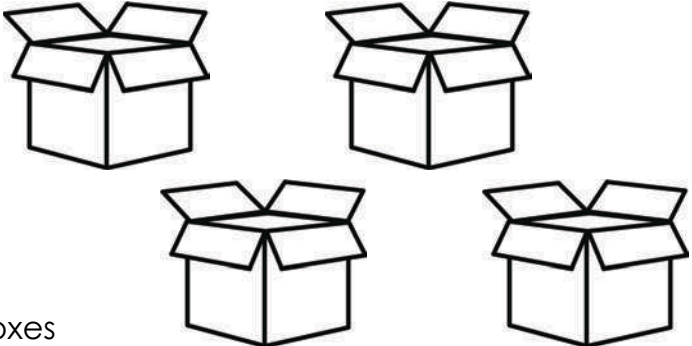
Recycle Counting

12

Name _____



Count the number of pictures in each row.
Trace the correct number.

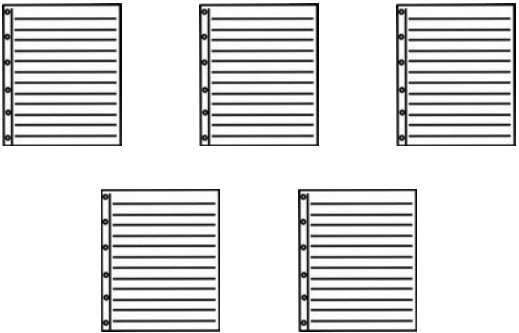


3

2

4

boxes

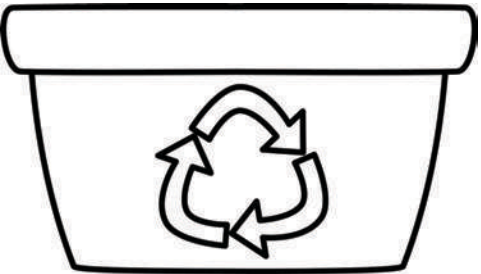


3

1

5

paper



6

8

1

bin

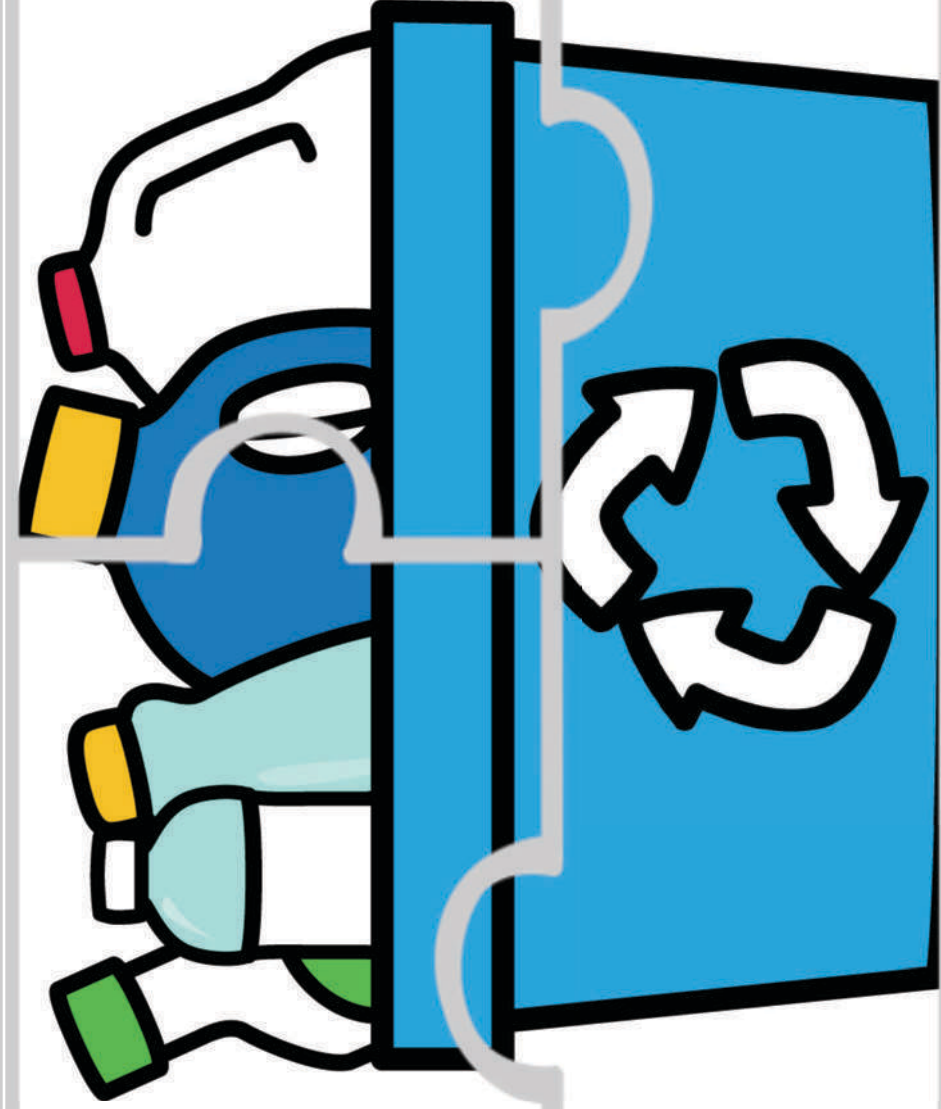
Picture Puzzles

Objective: The students use hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills to assemble a puzzle.

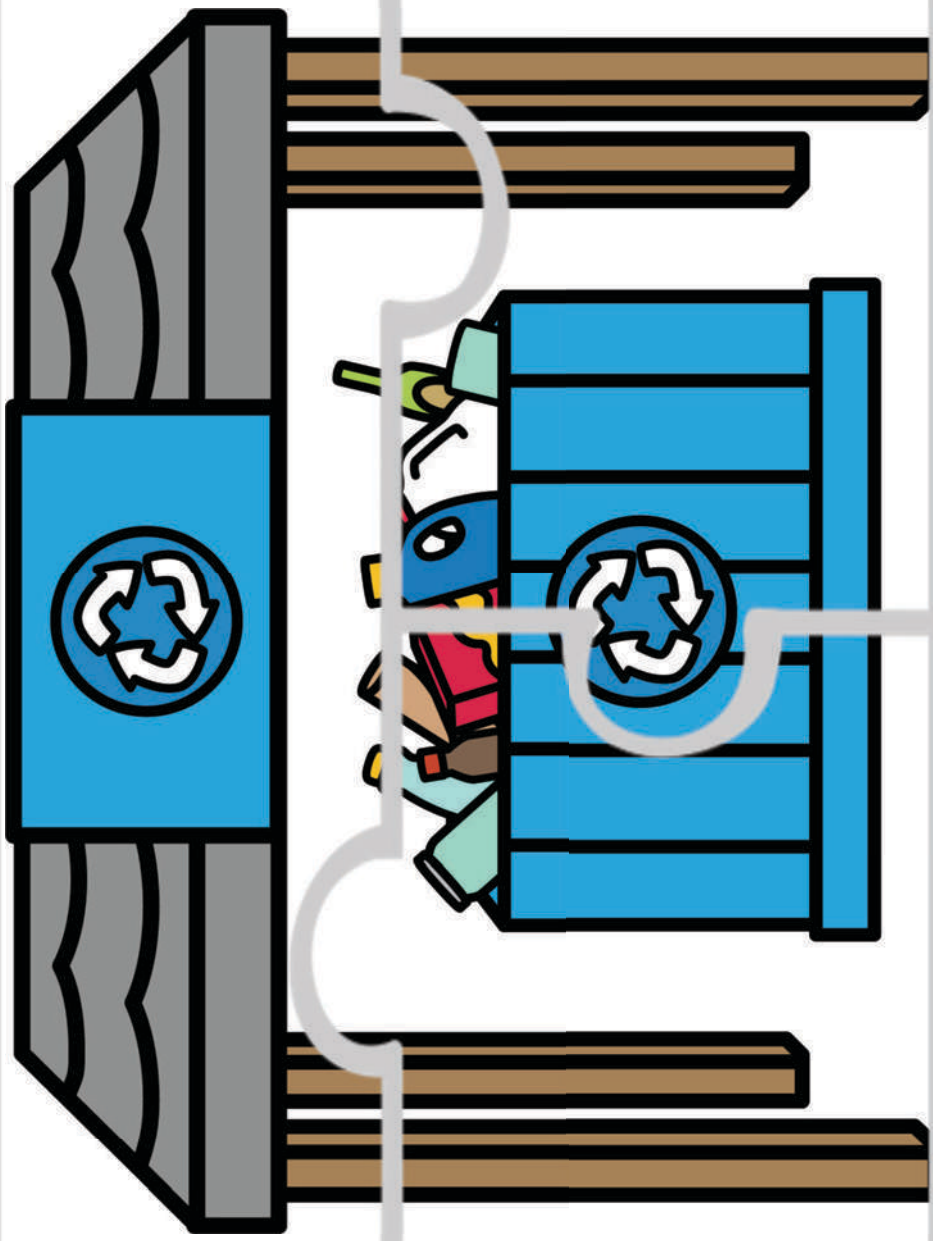
Preparation: Copy each page, mat, out, and laminate as desired.

Procedure: Students match the puzzle pieces together.













Thematic Units

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ALL THEMES GROWING BUNDLE

75+ CIRCLE TIME UNITS

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