TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS
GRADES 2–3

RALLY AROUND RECYCLING!

A RECYCLING PRIMER

scholastic.com/teachers/article/rally-around-recycling

SO...WHAT IS RECYCLING?

Recycling is the act of processing used or waste materials in order to make them suitable to be used again, or used in a completely new way.

IT OFTEN BOILS DOWN TO THE THREE R'S:

Reduce: Shop smart—buy durable goods, avoid disposable products, and buy only what you need.

Reuse: Donate your old clothes and books. Save and reuse your plastic bags. Get creative!

Recycle: Be sure to dispose of all recyclable materials properly, in recycling bins. Contribute even more by purchasing recycled products when possible and writing letters on recycled paper. It's easy!

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO RECYCLE?

It Saves Resources. By recycling, used materials are converted into new products, reducing the need to consume natural resources.

It Saves Energy. By recycling, greenhouse gas emissions are reduced, which helps to tackle climate change.

It Protects the Environment. By recycling, we take steps to protect our air, land, and water to safeguard human health and the environment.

It Reduces Waste Sent to Landfills. By recycling, recyclable materials are converted into new products and, as a result, the amount of waste sent to landfills is reduced.

WHAT CAN I RECYCLE? WHAT CAN MY STUDENTS RECYCLE?

Good question! We have more chances to recycle now than *ever*.

METALS! Soda cans, empty food cans.

GLASS! Nowadays, there is at least 27 percent recycled glass in U.S.-produced bottles and jars.

PLASTICS! We're recycling more than 2 billion pounds of plastic yearly. Not bad, but let's do better: Plastic bottles, jugs, and takeout containers can all be recycled.

PAPER! More than 60 percent of the paper we use is recycled annually. Recycle those cardboard boxes you've got so that they can become cereal boxes, paper towels, writing paper, and more.

BATTERIES, BULBS! Recycling car batteries is as American as apple pie—they're the most recycled product in the United States. Make the switch to CFL bulbs, and check with your local authorities about how to properly recycle all of your batteries.

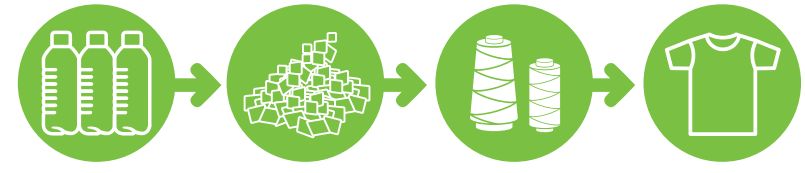
WHAT CAN RECYCLED MATERIALS BECOME?

Recycling allows waste to be transformed into something entirely new. For example:

Recycled notebook paper → Tissues, toilet paper, napkins

Plastic bottles → Clothing fabric, sleeping bag insulation, carpet

Metal cans → Automobile parts, steel beams for bridges, appliances



REPREVE RECYCLE RALLY

YOUR SCHOOL CAN PITCH IN!

Visit **rally.repreve.com** to register and participate in the **Repreve Recycle Rally Competition**! You'll receive banners and other cool stuff to hang in your school; plus, the top three winning elementary schools will win tickets to **Marvel Universe Live!** and an assortment of products made with Repreve.

REPREVE®

Prizing may vary by location. Visit **rally.repreve.com** for details.

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PLASTIC BOTTLE BAND

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Use this program to have a Recycling Day and kick off the Repreve Recycle Rally Competition! During the week leading up to your Recycling Day, have your class collect two-liter plastic bottles (enough for one per student plus some extras).

ESSENTIAL QUESTION: **How can plastic bottles be transformed into new and creative products to help the planet AND reduce waste?**

TIME: 60 minutes

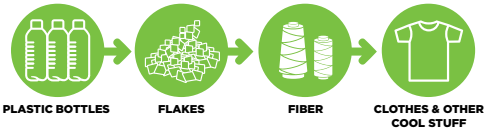
WHAT YOU'LL NEED: two-liter plastic bottles (one per student); toilet paper rolls; markers; beads; food dye; masking tape; double-stick tape; baking soda; vinegar; balloon; funnel; Student Worksheet B

BEFORE CLASS BEGINS: Over the course of one to two weeks, have your class collect plastic bottles of all shapes and sizes. Make sure that they are cleaned thoroughly.

Demonstration:

Introduce the idea of *transformation* to your class by preparing a demonstration.

1. Gather a plastic bottle, baking soda, vinegar, a balloon, and a funnel.
2. Pour an inch or two of vinegar into the bottle. Then use the funnel to fill the balloon with two to three teaspoons of baking soda. Put the lip of the balloon on the top of the bottle without letting baking soda get into the bottle. Slowly tip the baking soda into the bottle and watch as the balloon fills with gas.
3. Explain to the class that in your demonstration, a solid and a liquid were transformed into a gas, which filled the balloon. Tell students that sometimes when two or more substances are mixed together, or heat is added, a transformation occurs and a new substance is created.
4. Discuss the theme of transformation by comparing your demonstration to how products that we recycle are turned into new materials.



Refer to the diagram above.

5. Come up with a list of the natural resources that are used to create common materials such as aluminum for cans and trees for paper. Discuss how reducing, reusing, and recycling helps to ensure that we preserve these resources for the future. Use the example of how water bottles can be turned into clothing: Have students observe an ordinary plastic bottle and describe its uses. Then do the same thing with a T-shirt and explain that an object made out of one kind of material can be taken apart and made into a new kind of material.
6. Share with the class that they will be transforming ordinary plastic bottles into musical instruments. Distribute the student worksheet.
7. After the students have created their instruments, have them write a song to share with the entire school at the end of Recycling Day.
8. Discuss with your class how this activity transformed waste into something new. Plastic bottles can also be turned into lots of other cool stuff. Use this segue to introduce the Repreve Recycle Rally and get your students excited about collecting bottles!

EXTENDED LEARNING IDEAS:

- Read *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss with the class. Start a class discussion about the difference between a want and a need. Did people need Thneeds? Discuss how to use less energy by making a list of household appliances that consume energy. Discuss what people did before these appliances were invented. Could students try some of these methods occasionally to help conserve energy?
- Pass around a four-pound bag or weight to show the average amount of garbage produced by the average person each day.

Name: _____

STUDENT ACTIVITY SHEET B

PLASTIC BOTTLE BAND

Make a Marvelous Maraca!

Follow the steps to start making music!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: one plastic bottle; one toilet paper roll; different-colored masking tape; beads; markers

STEP 1 **Fill your bottle** partially with beads. Then screw the cap of the bottle back on.

STEP 2 **Create the handle:** Cut a line lengthwise down your toilet paper roll. Then tighten it around the top of your bottle and tape it to ensure that it stays on.

STEP 3 **Decorate and play!** Use different-colored tape to decorate the handle and markers or paint on the bottle. Pick up your instrument and shake!

What did you use the plastic bottle for originally?

_____

_____

_____

How did you transform the plastic bottle?

_____

_____

_____

_____

What is it used for now?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Why is the idea of transformation important to our planet?

_____

_____

_____

_____

PITCH IN!

Bring in as many plastic bottles as you can from _____ to _____ and help our school win prizes!