

LESSON PLAN

LESSON NAME: SORTING GAME (CLASSROOM + EVENT)

GRADES: ALL AGES (MATERIAL DIFFICULTY WILL VARY)

MEETS CURRICULUM: VARIES BY STATE/PROVINCE



OBJECTIVES:

To teach students and community members the proper yes/no's of our recycling program. That there is NO 'away' when throwing something in the garbage.

Materials will vary by the groups interest - i.e. hazardous waste for upper grades.

Vocab words = hazardous, decompose, landfill, MRF, compost

FACTS:

1. Materials in this classroom are made from recycled materials - plastic can be used to make carpet or the shirt you're wearing, metal can be used in the tables and chairs you sit at.
2. Materials like metal and glass can be endlessly recyclable. If they aren't recycled, they would take anywhere from 50-1 million years to decompose in the landfill.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

2-4 labeled buckets - one each for various program areas such as recycling, garbage, hazardous waste, organics.

Material examples - paper, cans, plastic, glass, pretend food, batteries, lightbulbs, etc.

DISCUSSION:

1. What is the most common item you recycle at home or school? What about that you throw away in the garbage?
2. What happens to something if it is not recycled?
3. Some materials like plastic bags, hoses and rope can get tangled and shut down the recycling facility. Where should these items go instead?
4. Some materials are hazardous to solid waste workers - do not throw these items in your garbage.

LESSON STEPS:

- **IN THE CLASSROOM:**
 - To get the students moving, we recommend turning this lesson into a relay game. If the gym or outdoor space is unavailable, a tabletop version pictured below will also work.
 - If going with the tabletop version, give each student one item and give them turns walking up to a bin one at a time to sort their item. Use each sort as an opportunity to correct behavior or further explain why it is important to properly dispose of that item (i.e. batteries will cause fires if placed in the cart).
 - Afterwards, if there are computers/tablets in the classroom each student could have a turn playing your ReCollect Waste Sorting Game to further the lesson OR you can demonstrate playing it as a group on a large projector screen.
- **IN A RELAY FORMAT:**
 - Set up two teams and provide each team the same labeled bins (pictured below). Each team receives a reusable bag full of mixed materials - based on the program areas the teacher has requested to focus on.
 - At the end of the relay, bring all students to both sets of bins and conduct an audit, calling out items that were improperly sorted and further explaining why it is important to properly dispose of that item (i.e. glass)
- **AT A TABLING EVENT:**
 - Similar to the classroom tabletop lesson, have at least two labeled bins. In the example pictured below the bins are labeled Yes & No to focus on the recycling program.
 - Use each improper sort as a discussion point with the community member.
 - Supporting Supplies: Have your ReCollect Waste Sorting Game available on a tablet or laptop to play & illustrate.
 - Giveaway Items: Use playing the game as an incentive to win a giveaway items like a reusable bag, magnet or mini cart.

NOTES:

