SCIENCE · TAKING CARE OF EARTH · GRADES 1–3

Recycle, Compost or Trash?

Sort twelve things into the recycling bin, the compost pile or the trash.



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Recycle paper, cardboard, cans and glass so they can be made into new things. **Compost** food scraps and plants so they rot into soil. Everything else is **trash**.

Write each thing in the right bin.

egg shells · grass clippings · soda can · broken crayon · apple core · chip bag · candy wrapper · banana peel · glass jar · cardboard box · used tissue · newspaper

Recycle	Compost	Trash

Which bin at your house fills up fastest?

_____

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SCIENCE · TAKING CARE OF EARTH · GRADES 1–3

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Match the three Rs to what they mean, then draw something you could reuse.



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1. Draw a line from each word to what it means.

reduce ●	● turn something old into something new, like new paper from old paper
reuse ●	● use less, like turning off lights you do not need
recycle ●	● use something again, like a jar to hold crayons

2. Draw something you could reuse instead of throwing it away.

3. Draw what you would turn it into.

4. One way I can reduce at home:

_____

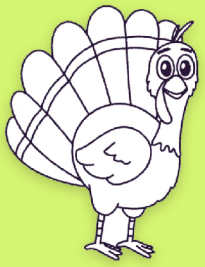
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SCIENCE · TAKING CARE OF EARTH · GRADES 2–3

Litter Survey

Tally the litter you find on a walk by kind, then think about what could stop it.



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Take a walk around the playground or your block with a grown-up. Each time you see a piece of litter, make a tally mark for its kind. Only pick up litter if a grown-up says it is safe, and wear gloves.

Kind of litter	Tally marks	Total
Paper		
Plastic		
Cans and bottles		
Food		
Other		

Most common kind of litter _____ **Place with the most litter** _____

Why do you think litter ends up there? What could stop it?

_____

_____

_____

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Energy from the Sun, Wind and Water



Sort six energy sources into renewable and not renewable, then mark four facts true or false.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

A **renewable** energy source never runs out: the sun, the wind and moving water keep coming back. Coal, oil and natural gas took millions of years to form, so when they are used up, they are gone.

1. Write each energy source in the right column.

moving water · coal · wind · oil · natural gas · sunlight

Renewable	Not renewable

2. Circle True or False.

Coal takes millions of years to form.	True	False
Wind will run out someday.	True	False
Solar panels turn sunlight into electricity.	True	False
Burning coal and oil puts smoke into the air.	True	False

Have you seen a wind turbine or a solar panel? Where?

_____

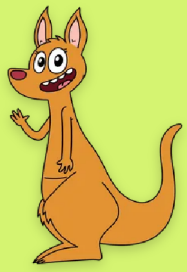
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SCIENCE · TAKING CARE OF EARTH · GRADES K–2

Earth Helper Pledge

Check the ways you will help, design a poster and trace a pledge.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



I will: ☐ turn off lights ☐ recycle ☐ use both sides of paper ☐ pick up litter ☐ save water ☐ plant something

Design a poster that tells people one way to help the Earth.

Trace the sentence.

I can help take care of Earth.

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ANSWER KEY · TAKING CARE OF EARTH · GRADES 1–3

Answer Key: Recycle, Compost or Trash?

Answers for grown-ups. Some questions have more than one good answer.



Recycle paper, cardboard, cans and glass so they can be made into new things. **Compost** food scraps and plants so they rot into soil. Everything else is **trash**.

Write each thing in the right bin.

egg shells · grass clippings · soda can · broken crayon · apple core · chip bag · candy wrapper · banana peel · glass jar · cardboard box · used tissue · newspaper

Recycle	Compost	Trash
newspaper	apple core	candy wrapper
soda can	banana peel	broken crayon
glass jar	egg shells	chip bag
cardboard box	grass clippings	used tissue

Which bin at your house fills up fastest?

Art © Kevin Coulston

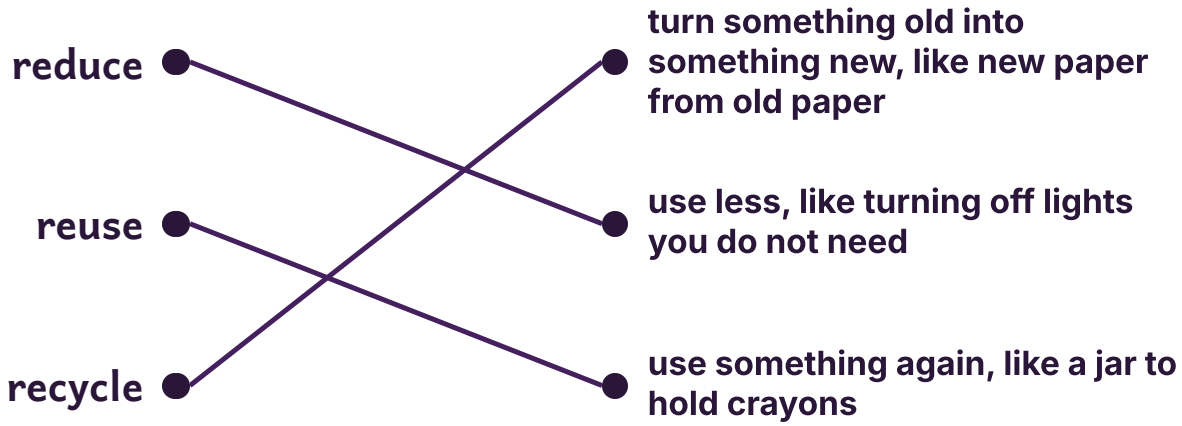
ANSWER KEY · TAKING CARE OF EARTH · GRADES 1–3

Answer Key: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Answers for grown-ups. Some questions have more than one good answer.



1. Draw a line from each word to what it means.



2. Draw something you could reuse instead of throwing it away.

3. Draw what you would turn it into.

4. One way I can reduce at home:

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ANSWER KEY · TAKING CARE OF EARTH · GRADES 2–3

Answer Key: Energy from the Sun, Wind and Water

Answers for grown-ups. Some questions have more than one good answer.



A **renewable** energy source never runs out: the sun, the wind and moving water keep coming back. Coal, oil and natural gas took millions of years to form, so when they are used up, they are gone.

1. Write each energy source in the right column.

moving water · coal · wind · oil · natural gas · sunlight

Renewable	Not renewable
sunlight	coal
wind	oil
moving water	natural gas

2. Circle True or False.

Coal takes millions of years to form.	**True**	False
Wind will run out someday.	True	**False**
Solar panels turn sunlight into electricity.	**True**	False
Burning coal and oil puts smoke into the air.	**True**	False

Have you seen a wind turbine or a solar panel? Where?

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