

# Recycle Card Sorting Game

**Grade Level** 3rd - 5th

## Objective

Students will be able to:

- Learn about recycling
- Demonstrate teamwork and group participation

## Duration

45 minutes

## Standards

- SS.3.G.3.Pa.b – Recognize an example of a natural resource.
- SC.3.L.17 – Interdependence.
- SC.4.L.17.4 – Recognize ways plants and animals, including humans, can impact the environment.
- SC.4.L.17.In.4 – Recognize things that people do to help or hurt the environment, such as recycling and pollution.
- SC.4.L.17.Su.3 – Recognize ways that people can help improve the environment, such as cleaning up trash.
- SC.5.L.17 – Interdependence.

## Materials

### Main Items

- Printed Sorting Cards
- Two bins for each group - one labeled recycling and one labeled trash.

## At A Glance

Students will test their knowledge on recycling by dividing into groups and sorting picture cards into the correct bins: recycle or trash.

## Background

Each American creates an average of 1,715 pounds of trash per year. Some of the things we throw away are made of valuable materials and took a lot of resources and energy to make. Instead of contributing to the ever-growing problem of trash and landfills, we can help contribute to a cleaner, healthier planet by recycling.

## Preparation

- Ask students if they know where their trash ends up after they throw it in a trash can. Explain that all of our trash is sent to a landfill, a site where trash is dumped and buried. When the landfill is full, another one must be made. Ask students to come up with reasons why an increasing amount of trash is bad. (Examples: takes up space, bad for the environment, wastes resources, increases pollution, dangerous for animals, etc.)
- Discuss what recycling is and explain how it allows us to reuse our materials again instead of sending them to a landfill. Our recyclables get sent to a Recycling Center where they can be made into new things.
- Ask the class why recycling is good for the Earth, and record all reasons on the board. Discuss how it saves natural resources (materials), energy, and helps keep our Earth clean and healthy by making less trash.
- Ask the class to name a few natural resources. Explain how many of our waste items, like paper or plastic, are made from natural resources like trees and oil. This makes recycling even more important, because it helps save these valuable resources.
- Ask students to name items they recycle. Discuss what can/cannot be recycled in Leon County.



# Recycle Card Sorting Game

## Vocabulary

**Landfill** - a site where trash is dumped and buried.

**Recycling** - the process of converting waste materials into new products.

**Natural Resources** - things made from nature that people can use.

## Answers to Game

### Recycle:

- Plastic Yogurt Cup
- Plastic Water Bottle
- Plastic Cup
- Plastic Container
- Plastic Shampoo Bottle
- Plastic Detergent Bottle
- Plastic Milk Jug
- Junk Mail
- Aluminum Can
- Steel Can
- Glass Bottle
- Glass Jar
- Paper
- Newspaper
- Magazines
- Cardboard Box
- Cereal Box

### Trash:

- Used Napkin
- Straw
- Styrofoam Cup
- Plastic Bag
- Plastic Fork
- Candy Wrapper
- Chip Bag
- Milk Carton
- Food Waste

## Procedure

- Print and cut out a set of Sorting Cards for each group. Give each group a set of **round 1** cards, then add in the **round 2** cards for the second round of the game, and finally the **round 3** cards for the third and final round.
- Explain that students will now play a recycling sorting game. Divide kids into small groups of 3-4.
- Give each group a set of **round 1** printed Sorting Cards, a recycling bin, and a trash can. Explain that each group will be given 1 minute to work together and sort the cards into the correct bins.
- After the first minute is up, go through the correct answers with the class. Then ask them to remove all of their cards from the bins so that the game can be played again, this time with more cards.
- Add **round 2** cards into the set. This will increase the difficulty level and make the game more fun and challenging.
- After a minute is up, go through the answers with the class again. Finally, add **round 3** cards into the set - each group should now have a full set of sorting cards. This will be the final round of the game. You can choose to have each group present their final answers and reward the winning team.
- **OPTIONAL:** At the end of the game, choose two volunteers to have a sorting challenge, where they each have to sort all of the cards in 1 minute. Each correctly placed card will count as 1 point, and the student who finishes first will win 2 extra points. The student with the greatest number of points wins. (This game can be repeated as many times as desired.)

