Where to Recycle

Where Do Recyclables Go?

Concepts
Recyclables should be source separated; publicity for recycling centers is necessary for their success.

Objective
Students will gather information about where materials can be recycled.

Method
Teachers will invite guest speakers to present information on recycling centers.

Materials
Maps, recycling locations, mapmaking materials

Subjects
Science, Social Studies, Language Arts

Skills
Collaborating, communicating information, gathering information, sharing research and writing

Time
Several class periods.

Vocabulary
Solid waste district, collection points, recycling center, source separation

Resources
State agencies; town clerk; solid waste management and planning commissions

3R’s of the Common Core
Parallel Activities
K-3, What’s Recyclable
7-8, Destination Recycle
9-12, Collecting and Sorting

Information
Recycling.
Resources
Solid Waste and Recycling
Waste Management Agencies by State

Background
Successful recycling depends in part on public education, publicity and convenience. Most people agree that recycling benefits the environment and helps reduce disposal problems. They would like to recycle, but don’t because they either do not know how to recycle, where to recycle, or available recycling centers are too far away or collection days too infrequent. Therefore, public education and convenience are vital parts of any successful recycling program.

Leading Question
What is recyclable and where can we take our recyclables?

Procedure
1. List recyclables on the board. Include the following: three colors glass, plastic beverage bottles (PET), plastic detergent and milk jugs (HDPE), newspaper, ledger paper, mixed paper, mixed plastic, corrugated cardboard, aluminum (cans, pie plates, foil), steel cans, other metals, batteries and oil. Discuss methods of preparation for various materials. Review what happens to the items when they are recycled. Show YouTube videos of recycling facilities going through the recycling process. Do you and the students know where these items can be recycled locally? If not locally, where in your state? Go to http://search.earth911.com/ to find out.

2. Have the town recycling committee or a regional solid waste commission member visit your classroom to talk about local recycling efforts.

Evaluation
Students should know where to recycle various materials and will begin to understand the complexities of setting up and maintaining successful recycling programs.
Classroom Activities
A. Make maps of recycling centers in your area. Display maps at home or distribute maps to local bulletin boards, businesses, etc. to stimulate recycling activity in the community.
B. Make a map of the towns in your solid waste district, showing collection points for solid waste and recyclables.
C. Use technology to create an informational flyer for giving away at area businesses, such as banks and supermarkets.
D. Write letters to the editor of your local newspaper about what students have learned and why recycling is so important in the world today.

Common Core Alignments

GRADE 4

CC.SL.4.1
Speaking & Listening: Comprehension & Collaboration

CC.W.4.1b
Writing: Text Types & Purposes

GRADE 5

CC.SL.5.1
Speaking & Listening: Comprehension & Collaboration

CC.W.5.1b
Writing: Text Types & Purposes

GRADE 6

CC.SL.6.1
Speaking & Listening: Comprehension & Collaboration

CC.W.6.1b
Writing: Text Types & Purposes

CC.W.6.6
Writing: Production & Distribution of Writing