What's Recyclable? K-3, III.B.2

**Concept**
Some materials are easier to recycle than others.

**Objective**
Students will distinguish recyclable from non-recyclable materials and will know how to prepare them for recycling.

**Method**
Students will select pictures from magazine and will sort and prepare materials for recycling.

**Materials**
Old magazines, magnets, scissors, glue, What’s Recyclable handout

**Subjects**
Social Studies, Science, Language Arts

**Skills**
Sharing research and writing, analyzing, investigating, problem solving

**Time**
Two class periods, ongoing station activities

**Vocabulary**
Magnetism, aluminum, steel, recycle

**Resources**
Dare Wright, Edith and Little Bear Lend a Hand; Ann Zane Shanks, About Garbage and Stuff; Alison Inches, The Adventures of a Plastic Bottle and The Adventures of an Aluminum Can

**3R’s of the Common Core**
Parallel Activities
4-6, Where to Recycle
7-8, Source Separating
9-12, Collecting and Sorting

**Information**
Components of the Waste Stream
Resources:
Solid Waste and Recycling

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**Background**
Virtually all things could be recycled in one manner or another. But some are more easily recyclable than others. And many objects, while recyclable, may not be collected in our area.

**Leading Questions**
What objects can be recycled?

**Procedure**
1. After reading your local landfill recycling information with the class, share a list of recyclable materials. Distribute handout (at end of lesson) to each student. Ask students to circle the items that they know they can recycle in their town.

2. Ask each student to select a picture of an object that is reusable or recyclable from an old magazine. Each student will write out how this item is recyclable. Younger students can match their item to a recyclable category you provide for them. Each student will explain to the class why his or her object is recyclable. Make a collage of the pictures. Place the students notes about the items along the collage borders.

3. Recyclable materials include newspaper, corrugated cardboard, ledger paper, steel cans, aluminum, three colors glass (brown, green, clear), plastic milk, water or juice jugs [HDPE] and soda bottles (PET). Demonstrate how to prepare each of the sample materials for recycling and set up a recycling station where students can properly sort the materials. After your demonstration, students will look over ‘trash ’ and locate and identify information on it that may help to sort it such as : #1, #2, or the letters (HDPE) and (PET) on plastics.
What are the easiest materials to recycle?

Classroom Activities

A. Magnets are pieces of iron or steel which attract other ferrous metal (containing iron or steel). Magnets will not attract aluminum. Have each student demonstrate the use of magnets in telling the difference between aluminum and steel objects. Examples may include the following:

Aluminum
- Soda can
- Lasagna pan
- Foil wrap
- Cookware
- Airplane

Steel
- Soup can
- Scissors
- Paperclip
- Nail
- Spoon
- Ships
- Cars

B. Note other differences between the two, such as weight, presence or lack of seams, ribbing and paper labels.

C. Have students make a How to Recycle book to bring home for their families. Encourage students to use the handout from step one to provide visuals for their book.

D. Take collected recyclables on a field trip to a recycling center. Students may also read and learn about Preserve, a company whose mission is “to help reduce the harm caused by the industrial age by demonstrating that consumer products can be both fabulous and lighter on the earth.” “Mission,” Preserve, accessed June 12, 2016, https://www.preserveproducts.com/explore/preserve-101/mission. Students can learn how they can help collect #5 plastics that can be turned into toothbrushes and other products.

E. Older students may play a recycling relay race. Divide class into teams. Each student picks an object from a bag of mixed clean trash and delivers it to a box or bag labelled non-recyclable (landfill) or with the type of recyclable (metal, paper, plastic, reuse).

F. Students design a recycling center for their home.

See 7-8, II. B. 1, Source Separating
What's Recyclable?

- Corrugated cardboard
- Plastic milk or cider jugs
- Tires
- Scrap metal and old appliances
- Car batteries
- Newsprint
- Glass bottles and jars
- Even used motor oil
- Aluminum cans
- Aluminum pie plates
- Used foil