

Why Should I Recycle? An Introduction to Recycling (Grade 2)

Overview

Students will be introduced to the concept and practice of recycling and the importance to their lives. They will also learn what items can and cannot be recycled in central Vermont.

Time

30 - 45 minutes (depending on depth of discussion)

Materials

- [Recycling Prezi](#) or [The Recycle Cycle Posters](#)
- Recyclable and trash items
- Small trash & recycling bin
- Recycling coloring sheets
- Book– “*Why Should I Recycle?*” optional

Lesson

1. Ask pre-assessment questions about recycling and landfill in general: definitions, who recycles at home, what do they recycle, why is this important?
2. Present Prezi or Cycle Posters
3. Introduce the activity. With the container of recyclables and landfill items have each student or team of students investigate an item, then each student will present to the class their answers to the following questions:
 - Does it go into the recycling or to the landfill? Why?
 - How did you know?
 - If recyclable, what might this item be made into?
 - If landfill, is there any way to avoid this item in our purchases?
4. Hang up the recycling and trash poster above the appropriate bin. If there are already posters there – point them out and make sure that everyone knows which bin is which.
5. Read book – “*Why Should I Recycle?*” aloud to the class. Be sure that everyone can hear you and see the pictures.
6. After reading the book – ask the students questions about the story.
 - What did you learn from this story?
 - What were reasons why we should recycle?
 - Where did the teacher bring the students on a field trip? (to the recycling facility) Where do our recyclables go? (Williston MRF)
 - What did the teacher say that we can do with old clothes? Does anyone here bring their clothes somewhere when they are finished with them?



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Portions of lesson adapted with permission from SF Environment's School Program