

Games, Nature, & Experiments

Sort, Recycle, Repeat

Estimated Time: 10 – 20 minutes (per day, indefinitely)

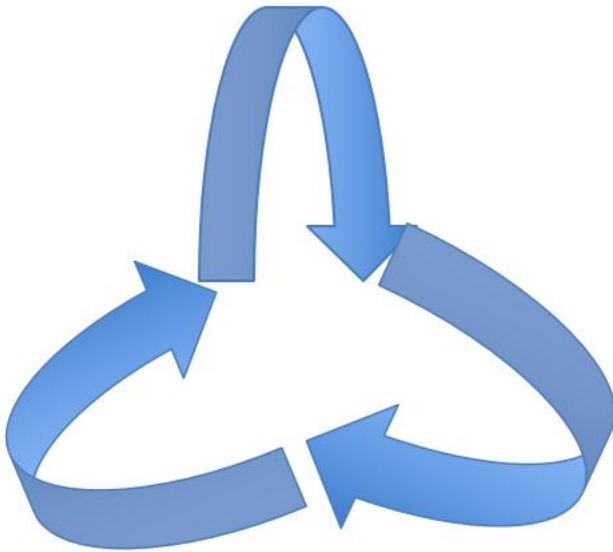
Age range: All grades

What you need: four large boxes or bins, gloves

Background Information:

Today we are going to be sorting glass, plastic, aluminum, and cardboard. Feel free to take a look at our 7 **LNT Principle** lessons before you get started! This activity will show you one of many ways to Dispose of Waste Properly!

Start by placing your four bins or boxes side-by-side. Assign a letter to each box. Each of these letters will represent a corresponding recycle item. Look through your recycle bin and find each of the four items listed above. Put on your gloves and place the items in the correct bin/box.



What is Recycling?

Recycling is the process of producing new products from used materials.

Why Recycle?

We recycle to reduce waste and conserve **natural resources**.

Recycling saves energy and money because new resource **extraction** is not necessary.

It also reduces our **carbon footprint**.

New Words or Adult Tips

Recycle sorting applies only to those who take their recycling to a recycle center.

Every recycling center has a list of items that can be recycled. Please be sure to reach out to your local recycling centers before you begin!

LNT Principles are composed of 7 guidelines that we can follow to keep our outdoor spaces, and the animals and plants within them both healthy and clean!

Recycling is the process of producing new products from new materials.

Natural resources are materials occurring in nature that we are able to use to our benefit.

Extraction is the process of taking something from its natural surroundings.

A **carbon footprint** reflects the amount of carbon dioxide and other carbon compounds released into our environment (surrounding natural areas) through the burning of fossil fuels (naturally occurring energy sources such as coal and gas).

Environmental Stewardship refers to the responsible use and protection of our natural resources and the environments (natural surroundings) they are found in. This includes taking care of the plants, animals, and land within our environments as well!

Example of Recycled Material

Recycled glass is often reused in asphalt to pave roads!

Metals can be reused and made into nails and other construction materials.

Issues

Unfortunately, not all recyclable items are recycled. Some recyclable items are thrown into the landfill.

However, we can still do our part by recycling appropriate materials at local recycling centers.

Follow the steps on the next page to get started.

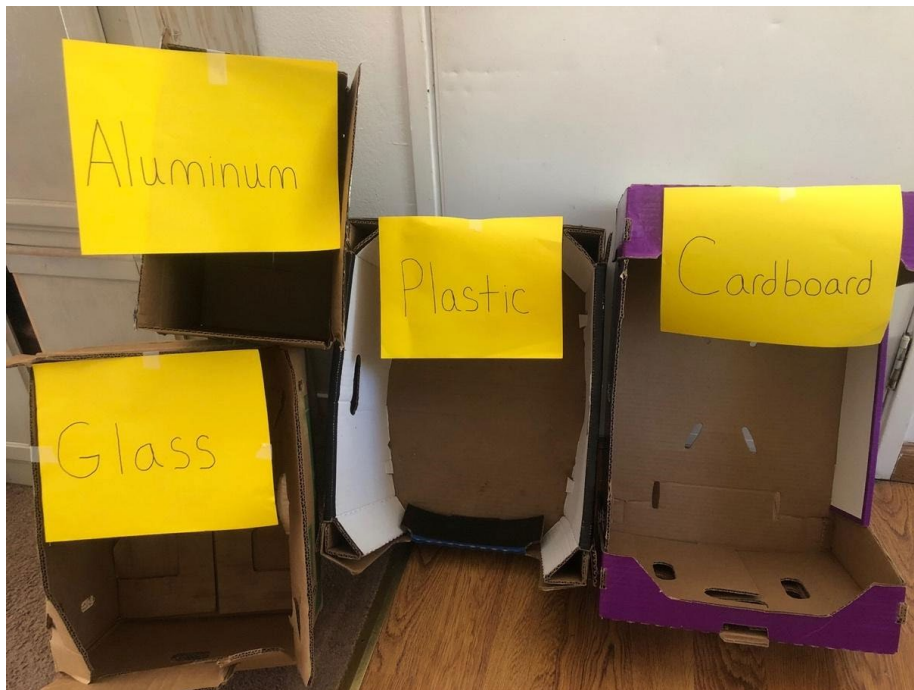
Recycling Activity

Instructions:

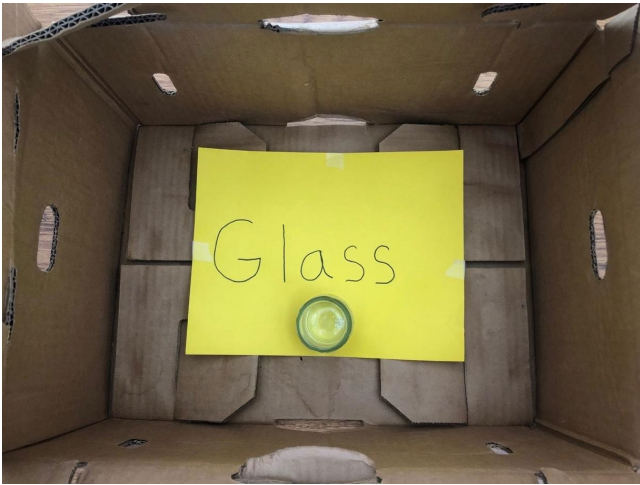
Step 1: Dig through your recycle bin (with gloves on) and find glass, plastic, aluminum, and cardboard.



Step 2: Find your four bins or boxes and label them.



Step 3: Place the recyclable items in the appropriate bins/boxes.



Not all plastics are recycled. If you have not done so already, go online or contact your local recycling center to find out which plastics are able to be recycled at that location.

You may even notice a number on each plastic item. This number corresponds with which items are being recycled in your area (at a particular time).



Once you have done this, put your bins/boxes in a dry space. This system saves time for you *and* the recycling centers! It also reduces the chance of cardboard getting wet or contaminated due to leaking containers. This is a quick and easy way to make a difference in your community. In doing this, you are practicing **environmental stewardship** and making the world a better place!

Now it's time to play a game!

'Plasticball' Game

“Plasticball” is a fun game you can play with your friends and family. Whenever you have some plastic items to recycle, grab someone and have a friendly competition of plasticball! Just like basketball, the plastic recycling box is the hoop and the plastic item is your ball. You can keep a tally over time to see who is the most accurate plasticball player. Get creative and do trick shots or long-distance shots. Make sure all of the plastic items that you use are cleaned well before playing. Have fun!

If you want to find out more about recycling visit

<https://www.epa.gov/recycle/how-do-i-recycle-common-recyclables>