



# 2009 America Recycles Day



## Poetry and T-Shirt Design Project

### Pre-/Post-Test (Grades 6-8)

*Circle the correct answer.*

**1. Which of the following can be recycled?**

- a. Aluminum
- b. Glass
- c. Paper
- d. Plastic
- e. Steel
- f. All of the above
- g. None of the above

**2. Which of the following could you find another use/reuse for before you recycle it:**

- a. Glass jar
- b. Paper only used on one side
- c. Plastic milk jug or soda bottle
- d. Steel can
- e. All of the above
- f. None of the above

**3. There are many benefits of recycling including which of the following:**

- a. Saves energy
- b. Saves resources
- c. Saves landfill space
- d. Prevents litter
- e. Makes people feel good to help protect the environment
- f. All of the above
- g. None of the above

- 4. If a product says it is recyclable, does that mean it is made from recycled material?**  
Yes  
No
- 5. Does bringing your lunch in reusable containers reduce waste?**  
Yes  
No
- 6. Is composting a form of recycling?**  
Yes  
No
- 7. Is finding a new use for an old object reducing waste?**  
Yes  
No
- 8. Is buying items in bulk reducing waste?**  
Yes  
No
- 9. Should you be concerned about the types of household products you have in and around your home?**  
Yes  
No
- 10. Which would be the best bag to use at the grocery store if you wanted to help conserve natural resources and protect and improve the environment?**
- a. A brown paper bag
  - b. A plastic bag
  - c. A cloth bag
  - d. A recycled cloth bag
  - e. All of the above
  - f. None of the above

# Recycling and Waste Reduction

## Pre-/Post-Test (Grades 6-8)

### TEACHER KEY

1. Which of the following items are recyclable?

**e. All of the above**

Glass, aluminum, paper, plastic and steel are considered to be the 'big five' of recycling. Although there are other items like tires, oil and computer/electronics that are recyclable, the above five are among the easiest to recycle and the most commonly recycled in communities.

2. Which of the following could you find another use/reuse for before you recycle it:

**e. All of the above**

There are many 'reuses' for commonly used objects. Glass jars are excellent for storing stuff, paper that has already been used on one side can be drawn on the other side too, plastic jugs can be refilled to hold water, and steel cans are a great way to keep items like pens and markers together. Of course there are lots of additional ways to reuse these – these are just a few examples.

3. There are many benefits to recycling including which of the following:

**f. All of the above**

Recycling: Conserves energy For example, it is 98% more energy efficient to recycle an aluminum can than to make a new can from virgin material. Conserves resources and also protects habitat for animals! By reusing resources there is less of a need to disturb the environment by mining or harvesting virgin materials. For example, plastics come from the non-renewable resource fossil fuels; by recycling plastics there are more fossil fuel resources protected or available for other applications. Conserves landfill space Landfills are EXPENSIVE to build and no one wants one in their backyard. Therefore, the more we do to recycle, the less need we have for landfills. Prevents litter When we properly dispose of waste or recycle, we have less litter. Litter is ugly and can harm wildlife in our environment. Makes people feel good to help protect the environment - we all feel good when we pitch in and do our part to protect the planet that we depend on for our own lives.

4. If a product says it is recyclable, does that mean it is made from recycled material?

**No**

Recyclable -- This word can be confusing and may refer to the actual package (like a cardboard box or aluminum can) or to the product inside

the packaging. It does not mean that the product has recycled content – it just means that the packaging or product may be recyclable.

Recycled -- Or 'made from recycled material.' This means that the packaging or the item you are purchasing has recycled material in it.

**5. Does bringing your lunch in reusable containers reduce waste?**

**Yes**

Bringing your lunch in a reusable container reduces waste because you can reuse the container over and over again. You can do other simple things to help reduce waste as well.

**6. Is composting a form of recycling?**

**Yes**

Composting is Nature's way of recycling. Composting decomposes and transforms organic material into a soil-like product called humus. Food scraps, leaves, and yard trimmings are excellent organic materials that can be composted. Composting is an important way to recycle -- both at home and at school, where organic material is used and waste is created.

**7. Is finding a new use for an old object reducing waste?**

**Yes**

By finding a new use for an old object, the object keeps its value and does not have to be sent to a landfill for disposal. We always want to try to 1) prevent waste from being created in the first place, 2) find a 'reuse' for an item, 3) recycle/compost, and, when there is no other choice, 4) throw the item away.

**8. Is buying items in bulk reducing waste?**

**Yes**

But only if you know you will use that quantity of the item. It is always better to buy the size you will use, but remember, in general, the smaller sizes of items cost more and have more packaging.

**9. Should you be concerned about the types of household products you have in and around your home?**

**Yes**

There may be household hazardous waste (HHW) in or around your home that may need to be recycled or disposed of properly. To learn more and to find out when the area Household Chemical Collection Days are, call the City of Tampa Department of Solid Waste at (813) 348-1111, or visit the Web site at [www.TampaGov.net/solidwaste](http://www.TampaGov.net/solidwaste). Using and disposing of household products responsibly can help protect the environment.

**10. Which would be the best bag to use at the grocery store if you wanted to help conserve natural resources and protect and improve the environment?**

**d. Recycled cloth bag** would be the best.

All of the above bags help to conserve natural resources in different ways (see below). You can find one(s) that work well for you and your lifestyle and feel good that you are making a good decision. Be sure to try to reuse and recycle them!

**A brown paper bag** is made from a renewable resource. This means that the trees that it is made from are a natural resource that can be replanted to make more trees. Brown paper bags are also reusable and recyclable.

**A plastic bag** is made from a non-renewable resource. This means that once we use up the fossil fuels used to make this type of bag, there will be no more fossil fuels. The advantage with this bag, however, is that the plastic is very lightweight and takes up very little space when it is shipped to the grocery store. It saves space and costs on the grocer's end (something we call source reduction). This bag can be reused and recycled in many communities.

**A cloth bag** is a great bag as you can reuse it over and over and over again. A cloth bag may cost around \$5 on the front end; however, you may get 5 years or more of use from it.

**A recycled cloth bag** is an even greater bag to use as it is not only reusable, but it is made from recycled material.

*Please record students pre- and post-test scores in the spaces provided on the entry form. Documenting improved water resources and conservation knowledge helps us justify continuing our waste reduction and recycling programs. Thank you.*

*Content adapted from Earth 911 Web site Resources – Visit [Earth911.org](http://Earth911.org) for more information on helping to protect the environment.*