

# Classroom Recycling

*Youth will learn the importance of recycling in the classroom.*

## Age Appropriateness:

5-8, 9-12

## Key Topics:

Environment

Reducing Waste

## Skills:

Critical Thinking,

Creativity

Teaching

## Materials:

Reusable Cardboard boxes, tape, markers or paint, possible examples of recyclables

## Action Time:

3-4 hours: broken up into lesson time, creation of boxes, and teaching each classroom about the bins and why they should use them

## Resources:

[www.recyclingfacts.org](http://www.recyclingfacts.org)

## OBJECTIVES

- Learn about what can be recycled in the classroom and outside
- Reduce waste throughout the school or building



## Discussion/Preparation

First help the kids find cardboard boxes within the school that they can reuse. They will need to talk to the school leaders to find out what types of materials can be recycled. Then lead the children in a discussion/lesson about what can be recycled and why it is important to create less waste. Ask questions about where they often see recycling bins and talk about why they should be recycling in their own classrooms.

## Action

- Have the children create the bins for each classroom in the school: this can be done simply by decorating the boxes you have found with recycling signs about what is allowed OR they can use a couple boxes taped together to make larger bins and decorate those as well.
- If only a certain class or grade works on this project it would be helpful if once they create the boxes they distribute them to all the classes and give their own tutorial about why they would like their fellow classmates to help out by recycling in their classrooms!

## Reflection

Ask the children how they can use what they have learned about recycling at home, on the playground, and in many public spaces. Ask them to continue to encourage their fellow classmates and teachers to use the bins. It is often helpful to create a recycling team that goes around and empties the bins each week so they can physically see how their efforts are paying off!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Should We Compost It?

**Directions:** Read each scenario. Determine the best solution for each situation and explain your decision.

Marco had cereal with milk and a banana for breakfast. Left on his tray are half a bowl of cereal and a banana peel. What should Marco throw away? What should he compost? Give at least one reason for each answer.

Ana brought a sandwich to school for lunch. When its time for recess she has a few bites of sandwich left. What can she do with the lettuce and tomato? What should she do with the meat, cheese and bread?

Juan has been helping pull weeds and rake leaves from the flower beds as part of his 5<sup>th</sup> grade community service project. The weeds are dried out because they have been treated with pesticide, but the leaves have fallen straight from untreated trees. What should Juan do with the leaves? What should he do with the weeds?

The art teacher has been using newspaper for a sculpture project. Daisy sees that she has a small box of shredded newspaper left over. What could Daisy suggest the art teacher do? What should Daisy check the newspaper for?

Miguel sees his teacher drinking tea every morning and throwing away the teabag. What could Miguel suggest to this teacher? What could he suggest to other teachers who make coffee in the teachers lounge in the morning?