



## “Problem Waste” is no problem

This past spring and summer, the District offered free disposal events called “Amnesty Days” at our recycling centers. On these special days, families could drop off household hazardous waste (HHW), tires, electronics, and some appliances – for free! These items should never be placed into the regular trash. They are often called “problem waste” because they need to be collected separately for safe disposal so they do not cause a safety problem in the landfill.



Our special collection events were a HUGE success! We collected 798 tires in May, 438 electronic items in June, and 106 refrigerant-containing appliances in July, plus hundreds of pounds of HHW in August. We are thankful that so many families wanted to do the right thing and dispose of their problem waste properly.

If your family has HHW and you do not want to store it until an event next spring, you can drop it off for free during normal business hours at the SEIRD facility at Jefferson Proving Ground. This facility is open year-round. HHW includes toilet and household cleaners, weed and bug killers, hobby glue, and oil-based paint. To learn more, call 800-997-4793 or visit [www.seird.org](http://www.seird.org).

## Your country wants YOU — to recycle!

In America, we are recycling and composting about 35% of our trash. However, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that we could be recycling and composting as much as 75% of our trash. This means that many of us are still putting a whole lot of things into the trash can that could be recycled or composted. We can do better!

When we recycle, we save energy, conserve natural resources, and help create jobs. When we landfill, we put a lot of good resources to waste. Did you know that people have been recycling for thousands of years? In ancient civilizations, people would melt down broken metal items to make new things. It was the smart thing to do back then, and it is the smart thing to do now!

When you and your family choose to recycle, you make a simple choice that makes a big difference. For example, recycling just one aluminum pop can saves enough electricity to power a flat-screen TV for two hours. If placed into the garbage and sent to a landfill, that same pop can would sit there for over 500 years before it broke down.

So if your family or school has not yet begun to make recycling a part of daily life, what are you waiting for? Set a good example and show others how easy it is to get into the recycling habit. Simply place a recycling bin (or bag or box) near the trash can. Make a list of what can be recycled and post it on the refrigerator or near the recycling bin. If you need information about local recycling programs, we can help. To learn more, call us at 800-997-4793 or visit [www.seird.org](http://www.seird.org).

To show that you are serious about recycling in your community and in the United States, you can take the America Recycles Day #BeRecycled Pledge. To join over 79,200 others who have pledged to learn about recycling and to share their knowledge, visit [www.americarecyclesday.org/pledge](http://www.americarecyclesday.org/pledge). This fun site is also filled with many ideas for celebrating America Recycles Day on November 15.

Make this our best year yet for recycling!



**Remember to #RecycleRight and send your recycling photos to [mandy@seird.org](mailto:mandy@seird.org). Show us how you #RecycleRight either at school with classmates or at home. You might be a featured guest on our Facebook page!**

## Celebrate America Recycles Day with us!

When you bring your recycling to one of our centers November 10-15, you can enter a raffle to win a unique prize! Winners will be selected on Friday, November 15 — America Recycles Day. Watch our Facebook page for details or visit your center to see what you can win that week.

## Reduce waste at lunchroom share tables

Sometimes the school lunchroom can be a loud and busy place and you end up not eating everything you were given, or maybe you don't like some of what is being served for lunch that day. A lot of food can end up in the trash can. What a waste! Or maybe you are still hungry after you have eaten everything you were served. What if there were an easy way to take the food that students did not want and offer it to other students who did want it? There is!

“Share Tables” are becoming popular in schools across the U.S. These are specially assigned tables or carts in school lunchrooms that help reduce food waste and help feed hungry students. Students who have items that they are not going to eat — such as unopened, wrapped food or beverages — can place them on the table. Other students who want the food can take it at no cost. This keeps food waste out of the landfill and puts it to good use. What a great idea!

Do you have a share table in your school lunchroom? If you don't, ask your teacher or principal to visit [www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/nutrition/doe-sharing-tables-update-003.pdf](http://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/nutrition/doe-sharing-tables-update-003.pdf) for details.



Photo courtesy of Green Umbrella

# DARE TO COMPARE

**Instructions:** Use the clues to find the correct answers. Show your work.

The letter B stands for the number of plastic bottles that Destiny recycled last week.

**Clues:**

- A.  $B + B < 25$
- B.  $B > 8$
- C. B is an even number
- D. 3 is a factor of B

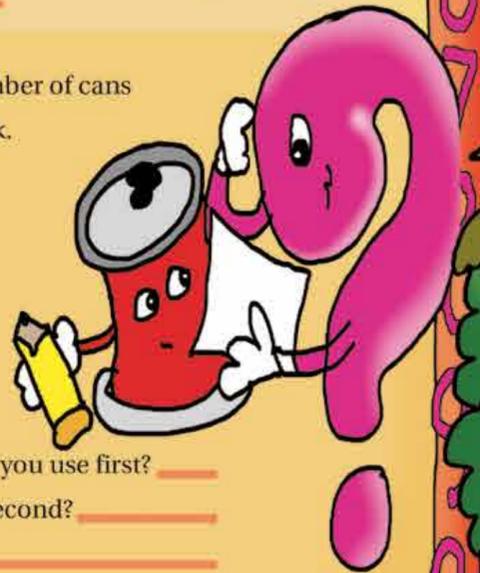
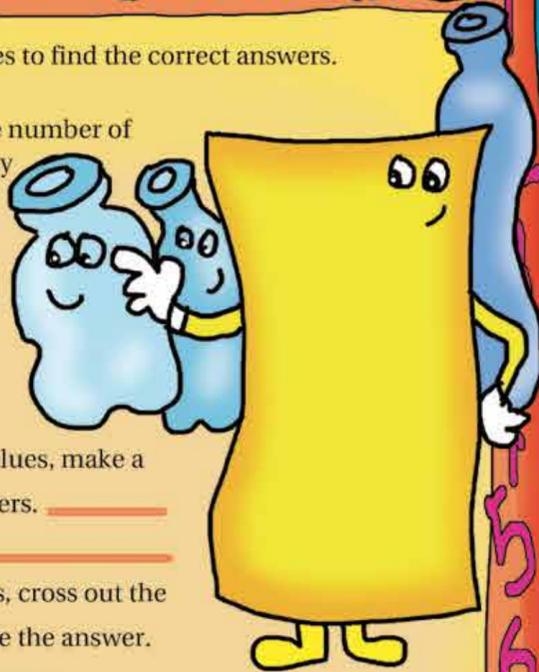
1. Based on the first two clues, make a list of all possible answers. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Using the last two clues, cross out the numbers that cannot be the answer.
3. What is B? \_\_\_\_\_

The letter C stands for the number of cans that Antonio recycled last week.

**Clues:**

- A.  $C < 6 + 11$
- B. C is not an even number
- C.  $C > 7$
- D. 5 is a factor of C

1. To find C, which clue would you use first? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Which clue would you use second? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is C? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How did you figure out the answer? \_\_\_\_\_



# COUNTING the VOTES

**Instructions:** At Oak Elementary School, 30 students serve on the student council. They have taken several votes and need your help tallying the results. For a resolution to pass, it must receive more than 50% of the votes. Round the percentages to the nearest whole number. We've done the first one for you.

Resolution	Yes Votes	Percentage	Did it pass?
1. Hold a waste-free lunch challenge every Friday.	19	63%	Yes
2. Declare "Trash Tuesdays" where students throw away as much as possible.	2		
3. Host an America Recycles Day family fair.	28		
4. Start a green team to monitor recycling bins.	25		
5. Require naps on Wednesday afternoons.	1		
6. Buy worm composting bins for the first grade classrooms and ask students to collect and compost lunch scraps.	16		

# WHAT'S WRONG?

In a food web, living things can be classified as producers, consumers, and decomposers. Producers use sunlight, air, and soil to produce their own food (energy). Consumers get energy by eating other living things. Decomposers get energy by breaking down dead plants and animals. Amy was supposed to correctly identify producers, consumers, and decomposers on this list. But she was in a hurry and didn't check her work. Six of her answers are wrong!

**Instructions:** Look at the answers. If an answer is not correct, cross it out and write the letter of the correct answer.

- P Producer C Consumer D Decomposer
- |              |             |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| <del>P</del> | 1. Dog      | <del>P</del> | 6. Bacteria |
| <del>D</del> | 2. Worm     | <del>C</del> | 7. Human    |
| <del>C</del> | 3. Broccoli | <del>P</del> | 8. Daisy    |
| <del>P</del> | 4. Owl      | <del>D</del> | 9. Mushroom |
| <del>D</del> | 5. Tree     | <del>C</del> | 10. Grass   |

# Something's Missing

**Instructions:** Fill in the missing vowels to read the message.

f y \_ u r f m \_ l y d \_ s n ' t \_ l r a d y d \_  
 b \_ c k y \_ r d c \_ m p \_ s t i n g , n \_ w i s a g r \_ a t  
 t \_ m \_ t \_ t \_ s t a r t . Y \_ u c \_ n m \_ x t \_ g \_ t h \_ r  
 f \_ l l \_ l \_ a v \_ s , d y \_ n g g \_ r d \_ n p l \_ n t s a n d  
 f l \_ w \_ r s , a n d f r \_ i t a n d v \_ g \_ t \_ b l \_ s c r \_ p s .  
 A f t \_ r H \_ l l \_ w \_ n , y \_ c \_ n s m \_ s h  
 p \_ m p k \_ n s \_ n d j \_ c k - \_ l \_ n t \_ r n s  
 ( r \_ m \_ m b \_ r t o r \_ m \_ v \_ t h e c \_ n d l \_ s )  
 a n d \_ d d \_ t h \_ m t o t h \_ b \_ n .

# Where in the World?

Using the clues below, figure out which country ranks #2 for recycling, the most per person. The government of this country has invested 2% of its gross domestic product (GDP) into a Green Growth program to reach a 59% recycling and composting rate.

1. I am south of Russia and northeast of India.
2. Mongolia is bigger than me.
3. I am at the south end of a peninsula.
4. I am just west of Japan.



Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

# Supplying the Demand

**Instructions:** Circle the correct answer.

If manufacturers need more recycled glass to make new bottles, what will happen to the price of used glass bottles?

- Stay the same    Increase    Decrease



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0



## Let us help

How do you spend your time? You probably spend most of it at home or at school. Maybe you play on a sports team or belong to a club after school, too. The chores we do at home, the work we do at school, and the activities we do in our free time all have an effect on our environment. We can help you figure out how to take better care of the earth, no matter what you are doing.

We can answer your questions and provide books, videos, and display materials. We will even visit your school, club, or organization and bring fun activities, workshops, or lessons. Or come to us at our facilities to see recycling and other programs in action. Here is a list of some of our most popular program topics:

- Reducing waste
- Reusing
- Recycling
- Landfills
- Composting
- Renewable resources
- Preventing and cleaning up litter
- Disposing of household hazardous waste
- Crafting with reused materials

To schedule a visit for your school, club, or organization or to borrow materials, ask your teacher or group leader to contact us at [mandy@seird.org](mailto:mandy@seird.org) or 812-574-4080.

**NEW!** *Would your classroom like to take a virtual tour of the Jefferson County Processing Center to see how our local Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) sorts your recyclables? Have your teacher contact us for details!*

## You'd better be-leaf it

In many parts of our beautiful country, autumn is the time when trees burst into flaming color. Leaves become sparks of red, gold, and orange and then tumble to the ground. They dry out, and we enjoy the crispy crunch of walking through them with that familiar fall fragrance all around us. The changing leaves make autumn beautiful — and maybe even your favorite time of year — until it's time to rake. If your yard is large and you have older trees, your raking chores could be huge. What if you found out that you didn't need to rake all of those leaves? Well, "be-leaf" it! Leaves can be reused to improve your garden and yard for spring.

Instead of raking, bagging, and having the leaves picked up, you leave them on the ground to make your soil and grass healthier. Here's how you can "leaf-cycle":

- If your family has a mulching mower, run it over the leaves a couple of times to chop them into small bits. If you don't have a mulching mower,

simply remove the bagger attachment that catches grass and have a grown-up insert the safety cover. Then mow over the leaves. Your lawn should now be "dusted" with leaf bits. They will break down into the soil by spring to "feed" your lawn and will protect the grass roots from the harsh winter weather.

- With the bagger attached to the mower, you can mow up the leaves. Empty the leaf bits from your lawn onto your garden. This leaf mulch will keep the soil moist for plants in the spring. It will also protect insects and bacteria that help plants grow. In the spring, fluff up the broken-down leaf bits and mix the material into the soil. If you have a compost pile or bin, you can mix the leaf bits into the compost.

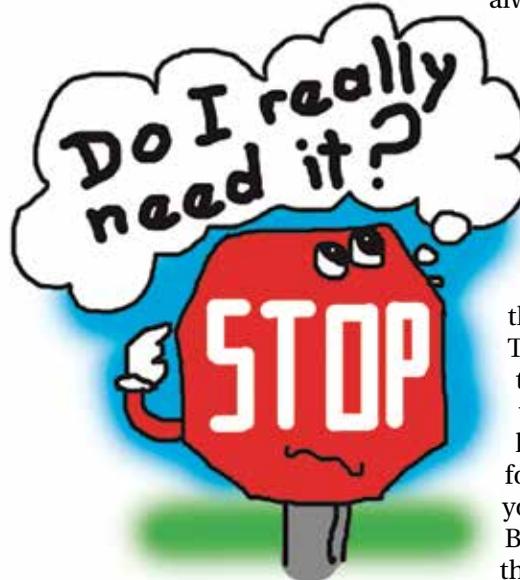


You may have heard older folks talk fondly about the "smell of burning leaves." That may sound like a nice memory, but we now know that burning leaves is dangerous. Leaf burning can cause fires that damage people's property, and the smoke is a very harmful type of air pollution. People, especially young children and those with allergies and breathing difficulties, can suffer greatly from the effects of leaf burning. Because of this, burning leaves is illegal in many communities.

This autumn, when your parents or grandparents hand you a rake, tell them all about the benefits of leaf-cycling. Maybe you will make be-leafers out of them!

## Stop, think, and reduce waste

To reduce is to make something smaller in size or fewer in number. When that happens, we call it a reduction. There are a lot of areas in which kids don't want to experience reductions, like recess time, grades, allowances, and ice cream scoop sizes. There is one area, however, when reduction is always a good thing — TRASH!



Reducing trash, or "waste reduction," is something we should all try to do. It helps us take care of ourselves and our earth. Waste reduction is a simple goal if we think about it before we create any trash.

Sometimes we may buy things or ask our parents to buy them right when we see them. They look so exciting and fun on the store shelf, and we just have to have them. The next time that happens to you, try walking away for a while to think about whether you really need the item or not. Better yet, leave the store and think about it later. You might find that the excitement dies down, and

you really don't want it as badly as you thought. When that happens, you just reduced the chances of creating waste!



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