

RECYCLE

In the assembly, students learn that everyday items can be recycled including paper, cardboard, milk cartons, cans, and plastics cups, bottles and tubs.

✓ LEARN: Discussion Prompts

Why is recycling important?

Recycling is a way of keeping the earth's valuable natural resources out of the landfill. When you recycle, natural resources are used over again instead of taking new ones out of the environment.

Where is the best place to put a recycling bin in the classroom and in the lunchroom?

In order to make recycling as simple as possible, keep the recycling bin next to the garbage bin so that it is just as easy to recycle something as it is to throw something away.

✓ PRACTICE & PROVE: Student Activities

- Ask students to collect samples of materials that are recyclable at school. Glue them onto a poster board with a big "RECYCLE HERE" label at the top. Hang the 3D posters above hallway, classroom, and lunchroom recycling bins.
- Have students guess what recyclable items are turned into once they have been recycled. Bring in samples of items that can be recycled and what they turn into. (Plastic bottles can become fleece vests, aluminum cans become new cans, and paper can become new paper).

... the world record for the most plastic bottles recycled in one week is 1,559,002 and was achieved by CIMA KIDS 2012 at Parque La Carolina, Quito, Ecuador on October 27, 2012?

Did you know...



All School Actions:

Prove that your school knows how to practice the 4Rs!

- Create or show a video to teach the school how to properly recycle in the classroom and lunchroom.
- Conduct a lunchtime recycling competition and measure the amount of garbage and recycling for one week. Display the garbage and recycling fullness results (1/4, 1/2, 3/4, or full) for each day to showcase successes and to encourage improvement. If the school has compost collection, add "compost" as a third category.
- Hold a "Waste-Free Lunch" challenge for a week or longer. Encourage students to replace single-use items with reusable ones. Remind them that they can help their parents! For more tips on waste-free lunches, visit www.wastefreelunches.org.
- Have teachers set up construction paper, marker, and pen reuse bins. Have teachers place unwanted construction paper, markers, and pens in the bins so that other teachers can take them to use.
- Host a classroom, grade level, or school-wide book or toy exchange. Donate the leftover items to Goodwill, Value Village, or another donation center.
- Collect non-usable markers and recycle them through Crayola's ColorCycle Program <http://www.crayola.com/colorcycle.aspx>.

The WM School Recycling Assistance Coordinator works with school-teams and student groups to create a plan for waste reduction and recycling projects in their school. Contact us at recyclinghelp@triangleassociates.com or (206) 583-0655 to see if your school is eligible for assistance.

Additional Resources

- Waste Management Recycle Often, Recycle Right: <http://recycleoftenrecycleright.com/resources/for-home/>
- <http://wmnorthwest.com/educational/greenschools.htm>

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The 4Rs Challenge Assembly

TEACHER DISCUSSION GUIDE

About the Assembly

Waste Management's 4Rs Challenge assembly show boosts your school's awareness of why it is important to Rethink, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle! This theatrical show takes students on an adventure to learn about the 4Rs and help the main characters set a record for 4R pledges in the Big Book of World Records! The interactive journey teaches students to:

LEARN the connection between natural resources and waste reduction and recycling.

PRACTICE what can and cannot be recycled.

PROVE that they've learned simple every day actions to cut down on garbage.

SHARE what they've learned with their families.



Goal of the Discussion Guide

BEFORE the assembly, please use this guide to introduce key concepts to your classroom. Start by reviewing the following 4Rs with your students:

Rethink what we purchase and use.

Reuse materials in functional and creative ways.

Reduce the amount of garbage we create and have to throw in the landfill.

Recycle materials that are recyclable at home and at school.

AFTER the assembly, use this guide again to review messages learned and to conduct discussion and follow-up activities.



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THINK GREEN.®

BEFORE the Assembly

During the assembly, students LEARN about the different natural resources used to make everyday items, where their garbage goes, and that the landfill is a one way trip. Prior to the assembly, have students brainstorm answers to the following questions.

What is garbage?

Things we can't reuse or recycle, or don't want anymore. Garbage is also something that no longer has value.

What are the items we use and throw away made from?

Natural resources such as trees to make paper, oil to make plastic, and ore from rocks to make cans, etc.

Where does Snohomish County's garbage go?

Snohomish County's garbage is picked up by trucks, packed onto trains, shipped hundreds of miles south, and eventually is put into a landfill in Klickitat County, Washington where it sits there forever. Over 1,500 tons, or 60 shipping containers worth, of Snohomish County garbage is sent by train every weekday to the landfill.

Why should we care?

By practicing the 4Rs we can help the earth by doing our part to make sure trees, water, ore, rocks, minerals, and oil are not wasted. Rethinking, reducing, reusing and recycling reuses natural resources and gives them a new life.



Did you know... ...over 30% of what is at the Roosevelt Landfill could have been recycled?

AFTER the Assembly

During the assembly, students learn about the 4Rs. Use the discussion prompts and activities in each of the following sections to reinforce and practice the 4Rs.

RETHINK

In the assembly, an advertisement tries to sell a non-specific "thingamajig" to one of the characters. Students learn to rethink their purchases, to ask themselves if they really need the item, and to figure out what they will do with the item when they are done.

LEARN: Discussion Prompts

What does it mean to rethink a choice?

Rethinking a choice means to think twice about purchasing items, how we use things, and what we will do with items when we are done with them.

Why do you think rethink is listed first in the 4Rs?

Rethinking our decisions before we even make a purchase can help decrease the amount of "stuff" we have and the amount of waste we create. Rethinking can help us to remember to reduce waste, reuse items, and recycle right.

PRACTICE & PROVE: Student Activities

- Have students brainstorm a list of things that are thrown in the garbage at school. How could they rethink these items? Are there items they can use instead that could be reused? For example, a Ziploc bag can be replaced with a reusable container; a paper towel can be replaced with a cloth napkin or a sponge.
- Have students brainstorm a list of items that they think they need. Once they have completed their list, have them answer the Rethink Checklist questions for each item.

Rethink Checklist

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Do I really need and want this? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | What will I do with it when I'm done with it? |

REDUCE

In the assembly, the OMG character and a volunteer discuss what they should do with a piece of paper that has been written on one side. They decide it's best to flip it over so that it can be used on the other side.

Did you know... ... that recycling one aluminum can saves the amount of energy it takes to run a TV for three hours?

LEARN: Discussion Prompts

What are ways we can reduce waste at home?

Buy food in larger packages versus in individual-sized packages; use reusable containers and cloth napkins instead of paper ones; use a phone memo app to create a grocery list instead of writing it on a piece of paper.

How can you reduce paper use?

Reuse a piece of paper that has writing only on one side (and then recycle it when you are done using both sides).

PRACTICE & PROVE: Student Activities

- Ask students to brainstorm additional ways to reduce paper use in the classroom.
- Have students create a classroom reuse box for paper that has only been written on one side.

REUSE

In the assembly, the characters show how reusing items keeps them out of the landfill and reuses natural resources.

LEARN: Discussion Prompts

What are some items that can be reused?

Ziploc bags, for example, can be washed and used again, but they typically end up being thrown away. Replace Ziploc bags with reusable containers whenever possible. Plastic grocery bags can be substituted for reusable ones and plastic water bottles can be replaced with reusable water bottles.

How is reusing different from recycling?

Recycling changes an item into something new and requires energy and other resources to make it. Reusing the same item does not require any additional resources once it is made.

PRACTICE & PROVE: Student Activities

- Have students record the lunch items they bring/buy each day and think about ways to reduce the single-use items that they use in their lunch.
- Ask students to brainstorm some creative ways they can help their family remember to bring reusable bags when they go shopping.



Did you know... ... Americans use 38 billion plastic water bottles a year? Think of the resources saved by using a reusable bottle or cup. Just wash, rinse, and use it again!