



# VIDEO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

After viewing the waste reduction and recycling video, use this guide to reiterate key messages and to conduct discussion and follow-up activities.

Find the elementary **How to Recycle at School** video here:  
<http://wmnorthwest.com/educational/greenschools.htm>



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**1. What are three items that can be recycled?**

*Paper, cardboard, milk cartons, juice boxes, aluminum cans, and plastic cups and bottles can be recycled.*

**2. What are some items that belong in the garbage can?**

*Wrappers, Ziploc bags, tissues, paper towels, chip bags, straws, plastic utensils, foil lids, plastic lunchables, and juice pouches belong in the garbage.*

**3. Why is it important that recyclable items are free of food and liquids?**

*In order for something to be recycled and made into something new, it needs to be clean. We cannot recycle something if it is dirty and yucky. Food and liquids should NEVER go in a recycling bin.*

**4. Where should recycling bins be placed in a classroom or in a lunchroom to make it easy for people to recycle?**

*Keep recycling bins next to garbage bins to make recycling just as easy as throwing something away.*

**5. Why is recycling important?**

*Recycling helps to keep valuable natural resources out of the landfill and reduces waste by reusing natural resources.*



## ACTIVITY IDEAS

- If your school recycles, pair up your bins! Make sure that each recycling bin is placed next to a garbage bin. Round up any “lonely” garbage cans at your school and either remove them or find them a recycling bin buddy!
- Create a classroom paper reuse box. Place paper that has been written on one side in the reuse box so that someone else can use the other side.
- Assign a classroom recycling ambassador for each week. The ambassador can make sure that recycling bins are emptied regularly throughout the week and note if any garbage items were found in the recycling bin.
- Create a recycling pledge and encourage students to pledge to recycle at school and at home. Make a mural or display and hang individual pledges for everyone to see.
- Complete a waste investigation at your school. Students tour the school to analyze the existing garbage and recycling systems.

## RECYCLE RIGHT!

Look at the containers below to remind yourself where items belong.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Waste Management provides the following FREE education programs for eligible schools. For more information and to see if your school is eligible for any of the below programs, contact [kkatzer@triangleassociates.com](mailto:kkatzer@triangleassociates.com) or (206) 583-0655.

## CLASSROOM WORKSHOPS

Five engaging workshops introduce and reinforce waste reduction and recycling concepts:

- Catalina's Conservation Quest (grades 1-2)
- Sort-it-Out (grades 2-5)
- Habitat Connections (grades 2-3)
- Landfill Laboratory (grades 4-5)
- Product Lifecycles: Stewardship and Everyday Stuff (grades 6-7)



## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Recycling representatives provide support for improving recycling systems at your school. Resources available include in-person site visits, lunchroom observations, staff trainings, and free containers and signs.

## GREEN TEAM SUPPORT

Whether your school is just starting a student Green Team or you already have one, our representatives can work with your team to identify recycling projects and offer support. Annual recognition and awards are also offered to Green Teams and individual students.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES & ACTIVITY IDEAS

Recycle Often, Recycle Right: <http://recycleoftenrecycleright.com/resources/for-home/>

K-2 lessons: <http://recycleoftenrecycleright.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Grades-K-2-Curriculum.pdf>

3-5 lessons: <http://recycleoftenrecycleright.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Grades-3-5-Curriculum.pdf>