

Save the World



recycling bins

A little change can make a big difference.

That chocolate pudding you had for dessert was delicious! You lick the lid, and you're ready to throw out the container-along with the plastic spoon. Stop right there! You can recycle that spoon!

Recycling is the practice of using items or materials again. That cuts down on the amount of waste on the planet. Americans recycle much of their garbage. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the United States recycles more than 30 percent of its waste.

In 1999, recycling kept more than 64 tons of material from ending up in landfills. But there is still more that can be done.

There are several ways to recycle around the home. If your community has a curbside pickup program, you can leave recyclable materials outside. The materials are then collected and brought to recycling centers. Another option is to take recyclable items to a refund center. For

example, you can take many types of cans to can-return machines at supermarkets. Drop in the cans and you receive a small amount of money for each one.

It is easy to separate recyclable items from other trash. Paper, plastic bottles, and aluminum cans can usually be recycled. To make it easy, keep separate recycling bins in various places in your home. If you are writing in your room and have scrap paper, you can toss it into a recycling bin instead of throwing it out.

Five Easy Ways to Go Green

- **Plant a tree.** You can gather seeds, or you can buy a tree to plant. Trees help give us oxygen, which we need in order to live. Visit arborday.org for more information.
- **Reuse plasticware.** If you use plastic forks, knives, or spoons during meals, wash them and then use them again the next day. You will have less garbage, and you won't need to spend as much money on utensils.
- **Turn off the lights when you leave a room.** If no one is in a room, why keep it lit? Turn off lights, televisions, and other power-using devices when you don't need them. You will save energy.
- **Donate old clothes.** When clothing doesn't fit anymore, don't just throw it out. Donate the clothing to someone who needs it. Visit salvationarmyusa.org. You will not only cut down on waste but also help someone who might be unable to afford clothes.
- **Return cell phone batteries.** Cell phone batteries contain chemicals that can pollute air and water. Find out whether the phone store has a recycling program; if not, ask the employees whether they know of a program that collects the batteries. Visit recyclewirelessphones.com for more information.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is recycling?

- A. the process by which trees give us oxygen
- B. the practice of using items or materials again
- C. the practice of throwing out scrap paper
- D. the amount of power used by televisions

2. What does the author list in this text?

- A. desserts that can be eaten with a spoon
- B. cell phone stores with recycling programs
- C. supermarkets in the United States
- D. easy ways to go green

3. Recycling can reduce the amount of waste on the planet.

What evidence in the text supports this statement?

- A. You can receive a small amount of money for each can you recycle.
- B. Some people might not be able to afford clothes.
- C. In 1999, recycling kept more than 64 tons of material from ending up in landfills.
- D. It is easy to separate recyclable items from other trash.

4. Based on the information in the text, why might people want to reduce waste?

- A. because reducing waste can help the planet
- B. because there is not enough waste on the planet
- C. because the planet needs waste in order to thrive
- D. because waste has no effect on the planet

5. What is the main idea of this text?

- A. There are many ways you can help the planet from home.
- B. Cell phone batteries contain chemicals that can pollute air and water.
- C. Many types of cans can be recycled at can-return machines at supermarkets.
- D. Trees help give us oxygen, which we need in order to live.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

"If you use plastic forks, knives, or spoons during meals, wash them and then use them again the next day. You will have less garbage, and you won't need to spend as much money on utensils."

Why might the author have used "you" here instead of "she," "he," or another word?

- A. to encourage the reader to reuse plastic forks, knives, and spoons
- B. to confuse the reader
- C. to criticize the reader
- D. to blame the reader for the amount of waste on the planet

7. Read these sentences from the text.

"In 1999, recycling kept more than 64 tons of material from ending up in landfills. But there is still more that can be done."

What word or words could replace the word "but" without changing the meaning of the second sentence?

- A. As a result,
- B. However,
- C. At last,
- D. Instead,

8. According to the text, what is one easy way to go green?

9. Explain whether a person can go green in more than one way.

Support your answer using examples from the text.

10. Read this header from the text.

"A little change can make a big difference."

Think about what this statement might mean about recycling and going green. Using evidence from the text, argue for or against the statement that a little change can make a big difference.