

3R's Answer Key

“Here today, gone tomorrow,” a phrase that sadly does not apply to a lot of the garbage we throw in the trash every day. What can we do to reduce all this waste that continues to pile up? We can practice the three R's of waste reduction, reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Which of the items below can be reused or recycled? Match the items to the correct container by drawing a line from each item to the proper container. Answer key – for ease of use the answers have been printed to the right of each item. Some items may have more than one answer. This provides an opportunity to discuss the various options. Discuss why individuals may dispose of waste differently and which means of disposal is best for the environment.

APPLE CORE – Compost Bin

CD PLAYER (In good condition) – Local Charity

EGG SHELL – Compost Bin

GLASS JAR – Recycling Container

LEAVES – Compost Bin

PAPER – Compost Bin or Recycling Container

PLASTIC BOTTLE – Recycling Container

SHIRT (That does not fit) – Local Charity

SODA CAN – Recycling Container

STYROFOAM – Trash Can

Do you know how long it takes before a plastic bottle begins to decompose in a landfill? 700 years ~ Source: Earth911.org



Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

Find each item in the word search below.

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- APPLE CORE
- CD PLAYER
- EGG SHELL
- GLASS JAR
- LEAVES
- NEWSPAPER
- PLASTIC BOTTLE
- SHIRT
- SODA CAN
- STYROFOAM



In addition to the three R's, we can also precycle. Precycle reduces waste by avoiding items that will create waste. Precycle basically means to think before you buy. List 5 ways you can precycle this week.

Answer: Many different answers are acceptable. Examples of answers may include:

- Use your own reusable bags for shopping.
- Avoid purchasing items that can only be used once or for a limited time, such as throwaway cleansing pads, non-refillable pens, and foil baking pans.
- Buy items that you use frequently in bulk, such as cereals.
- Look for items that are packaged in reusable or recyclable containers.
- Use reusable utensils, plates, bowls, and cups.
- Use cloth napkins versus disposable napkins.
- Donate unwanted items to a local charity or church organization.
- Sell unwanted items in a yard sale.
- Purchase items packaged in recycled material.
- Shop at a local thrift store.
- Use a travel mug or thermos versus a disposable cup.
- Grow your own fruits and vegetables, when possible.

Unscramble each of the clue words. Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.

Answers:

1. PRECYCLE
2. THINK BEFORE YOU BUY
3. TO USE AGAIN OR REUSE
4. REDUCE
5. RECYCLE
6. PAPER
7. PLASTIC
8. COMPOST
9. LANDFILL



Phrase: In 2006, Americans produced around 251 million tons of waste.

Home or Community Project Ideas (consult with a parent, guardian, teacher, or 4-H agent before beginning your project):

- ✓ Kick off a cleanup event in your community or at your school. Ask local businesses to donate garbage bags, gloves, and refreshments.
- ✓ At 4-H Camp, take a trash trek, and collect litter around the camp. Remember to sort and recycle items.
- ✓ Keep a large cardboard box or plastic container in your closet or under your bed. Place items that you no longer use, such as clothing that is too small, old toys, books, etc., in the container. When the container is full, take the items to a local charity or church organization.
- ✓ Build a worm composting bin to recycle vegetable and fruit waste.
- ✓ Celebrate American Recycle's Day on November 15 by promoting recycling in your community or school. Be creative ~ make posters using recyclable materials, write an article for your school paper, and teach others about recycling.

Additional Resources:

- America Recycles Day - <http://www.nrc-recycle.org/americanrecycles.aspx>
- Environmental Protection Agency: Environmental Kid's Club Garbage and Recycling – <http://www.epa.gov/kids/garbage.htm>
- Environmental Protection Agency: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle - <http://www.epa.gov/msw/reduce.htm>
- Environmental Protection Agency: Resources for Waste Education - <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/education/index.htm>
- Keep America Beautiful - <http://www.kab.org/site/PageServer?pagename=index>
- Kentucky Division of Waste Management - <http://www.waste.ky.gov/recycling/>
- KY EPPC Recycling Facility Search - <http://eppcapps.ky.gov/DWM%20Recycling/default.aspx>

The America Recycles Day 2008 Packet Materials are available online at www.ca.uky.edu/enri/ard/.

Contact Ashley Osborne, Extension Associate for Environmental Issues. July 2008.