

# Recycling Relay

## Eco-Schools Topic:

Consumption and Waste

## Grade Level:

Grades 2-8

## Standards:

N/A

## Format:

1 Group Activity

## Guiding Question:

What can be recycled?

## Lesson Objectives:

Students will...

- Students will be able to identify the difference between recycling, compost and trash

## Key Questions, Attitudes, and Behaviors to teach:

- Circle items that can be recycled in the recycling bin (K)



- Throwing away trash can hurt the planet (A)
- I like to reuse things before they are thrown away (A)
- I recycle (B)
- I upcycle (make crafts out of trash) at home (B)

## Prep:

- Familiarize yourself and all instructors with county rules for recycling (refer to link)
  - have an expert's contact whom you can call with questions
- Download powerpoint off of ESLI website
- Teacher, Class and Volunteers will collect and wash out enough recycling, trash and compost materials ahead of time so there is one item per student.
- Label "compost" "recycling" and "trash" on three bins for each row (4-5 students in each row)
- Place the bins/bags/ layout materials to prepare for relay (each row should have the same mix of materials)
- Put all the recycling, compost and trash items at start line of the relay (make sure there is an equal amount in each row)

## Materials:

- Open space where students can run around



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- Bins/bags for compost/recycling/trash (have 3 for each row) \*number of rows should be determined based on the number of students you are working with- each row should have 4-5 students
- Recycling, Trash and Compost Items (*Compost is optional*)
  - 5 of each item (example 5 plastic waterbottles)- one for each line
  - You can get some of these supplies from the student's lunch/ school trash
- White board & white board marker
- Laptop per small group or projector to show powerpoint

### Engaging Intro (10 min)

- Get into small groups
- Transition from food to waste and consumption by talking about food waste and then other things that we throw away!
- Use the **ESLI Powerpoint (find on website)** as a guide to introduce trash, and compost—positives/ negatives
  - Ask "what are different ways to throw away your waste?"
  - Then watch Video [here](#) to know where recycling goes (this video is made for Arlington, but the Ffx process is similar)
  - Make a list on the board with the students on different things you recycle, and trash (you can use some of the items you will use in your relay too and include compost if you plan on having that be part of your relay) . Hold up each item as you discuss it in case the students can't identify them by name.

### Exploratory Activity

- Get students to split up into groups for the relay race (4-5 kids) (adjust based on amount of students you are working with)
- Instructors explain the directions
  - Tell them what the three bags mean
  - explain how they do the relay race
    - show demonstration with other instructors
    - **Keep relay simple!! (the point is to put waste in correct bin)**
- Students line up in their lines
- Each line has a pile of recyclables, trash and compost mixed together in front of them (keep in bags so they don't fly away)
- Some volunteers stand on the opposite side with the bins
- Each student will pick up one item in the pile of recycling, composting and trash
- Then the student will race to the other side of the room where the bins are and place the item in the correct bin. If the student puts the item in the wrong bin, they must do 10 jumping jacks before running back to tag the next teammate.
- Students sit down in their lines once they have finished their turn. The first row with all students sitting down wins.
- EXTRA: if there are enough volunteers, have one of your teens join each group.

### Discussion

- Have small groups get back together
- Review the items that students threw in wrong bin
- Why is it important to recycle?



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- Where does recycling go?
  - Ex. Plastic water bottle made back into a water bottle or into a carpet
- What if you seeing administration/ custodial staff throw recycling into trash
  - Don't be discouraged—have a conversation with them!
- Then have groups share out with one another.
- Can talk about other options than trash and recycling—compost!
- **VISIT SCHOOL'S DUMPSTER AND RECYCLING** (find out when it gets picked up—maybe kids can watch this process)

#### Links and Resources

ESLI powerpoint (on website next to Recycling Relay) or [ESLI Prezi](#)

Recycling process: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=246&v=imwkiBtshCw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=246&v=imwkiBtshCw)

Fairfax County Dos and Dots Sign: [http://get2green.fcps.edu/pdf/Recycle\\_poster.pdf](http://get2green.fcps.edu/pdf/Recycle_poster.pdf)

[Recycling@fcps.edu](mailto:Recycling@fcps.edu)

[FCPS Schools visit→ http://get2green.fcps.edu/](http://get2green.fcps.edu/)

Items that you are unsure about? Have an expert on call who can answer your questions and be a resource for the students in the future.



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