

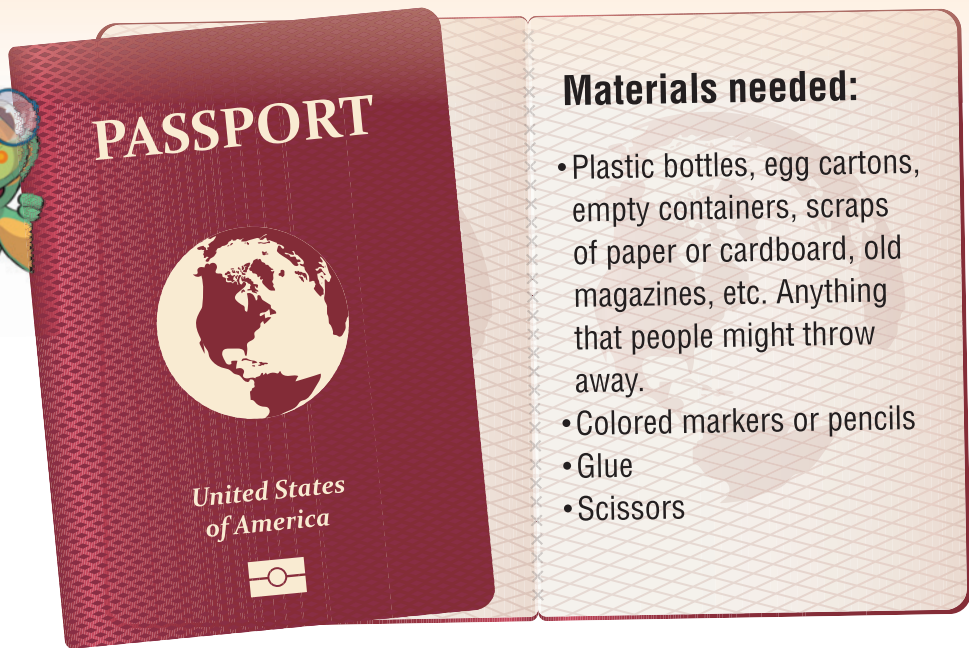


# WE TAKE PART IN A RECYCLING CONTEST



## Learning objectives

- Encouraging students to learn about the importance of responsible consumption and recycling.
- Linking Unit 6 (Go Green) to UN's Sustainable Development Goal #12 to raise awareness of how responsible lifestyles can help protect our planet.
- Motivating students to make responsible decisions that help the environment and understand how their actions can protect our planet. 



### Materials needed:

- Plastic bottles, egg cartons, empty containers, scraps of paper or cardboard, old magazines, etc. Anything that people might throw away.
- Colored markers or pencils
- Glue
- Scissors

## Warm-up

Write the word *recycle* on the board and ask students to deduce its meaning, e.g.:

**Teacher:** *What does the word recycle mean?*

**Student 1:** *To make something new from something old.*

**Student 2:** *To reuse something.*

**Teacher:** *Great!*

As a class, discuss the importance of recycling using question prompts, e.g.:

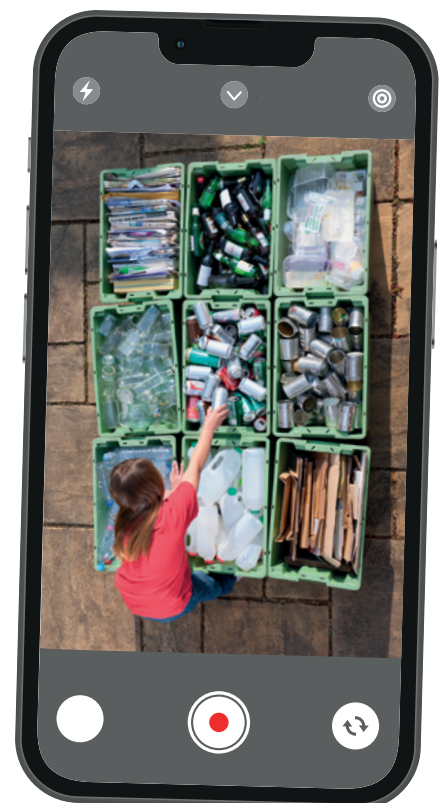
**Teacher:** *Why is recycling important?*

**Student 1:** *(Because) it helps the environment.*

**Teacher:** *What things do you, or your family, recycle?*

**Student 2:** *I usually reuse paper.*

**Student 3:** *My mom reuses bags (when she goes to the supermarket).*



## Starting point

As a class, make a list of five things people usually throw away and brainstorm what people can do with them instead. Encourage the students to think outside the box, e.g.:

**Teacher:** *What are some things people usually throw away?*

**Student 1:** *Shoe boxes.*

**Student 2:** *Glass jars.*

**Teacher:** *What can we do with a glass jar?*

**Student 1:** *Make a pencil organizer.*

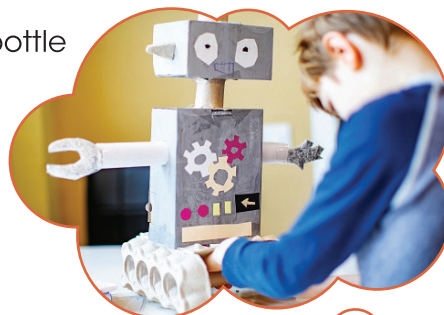
**Teacher:** *And with a shoe box?*

**Student 2:** *Make a tea box.*

Afterward, explain to students that they are going to take part in a recycling contest. The contest consists of creating something new out of the materials they brought and then voting for the most creative one. For the contest, students can work individually or in small groups. Help the students come up with ideas for their projects. If they forgot to bring something, they could look for materials inside the class.

**Here are some ideas of objects students can make:**

- Binoculars using toilet paper rolls
- A bowl using old magazines
- A desk organizer using old shoe and tissue boxes
- Pencil organizers using tin cans or glass jars
- Bookmarks using cardboard scraps
- A jewelry box using an egg carton
- A piggy bank using a plastic bottle



## Progression

Once the children have come up with an idea for their materials, tell them they can start their project. Remind the students to use as many materials as they want and to decorate their objects. Monitor students while they work on their projects. When the children have finished, each group (or student) will show their item to the class and make a short presentation explaining how they made it, e.g.:

**Teacher:** *What did you make?*

**Student:** *I made a (bookmark).*

**Teacher:** *Which material did you use?*

**Student:** *I used an old (cereal box).*

**Teacher:** *How did you make it?*

**Student:** *I drew (the shape of the bookmark) on the cardboard. Then, I cut it, and I colored the bookmark using markers.*

After the presentations, encourage students to vote for the most creative one. Remind the children that they are not allowed to vote for their own creations.

## Further exploration

### Social and Emotional Learning

On the board, write the following prompts for students to decide if these actions may have a positive or negative impact and invite them to explain why.

1. I have a reusable water bottle. (Positive. Because we reduce the amount of plastic waste that ends up in landfills and oceans.)
2. I throw away any food / item I don't like. (Negative. Because we create more waste.)
3. I always turn off the tap water when I'm brushing my teeth. (Positive. Because in that way we use less water.)
4. I sometimes throw away old containers. (Negative. Because those old containers will probably end up in a landfill.)
5. I save old buttons and bows for other clothes or artwork. (Positive. Because it helps us save money and reduce waste.)

To wrap up, remind the children that our daily actions may have an impact on our planet and that is why it is important to make responsible decisions.

