

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Importance of Recycling

by Lydia Lukidis

I'm sure you all know how important recycling is. Recycling is when you take old things and turn them into new things. It sounds like magic. But it's actually very scientific.

Do you know how it all works? The first thing you have to do is collect items that can be recycled. Only certain materials can be recycled. These include things made out of paper, metal, glass and plastic. Can you think of everyday items made out of these materials? Soda cans are a good example. They are made out of metal. Magazines and newspapers are made out of paper. So are cereal boxes. Some bottles of juice are made out of glass. Bags and yogurt containers are made out of plastic. There are many things that can be recycled.



These things are usually stamped with the recycling loop. It has 3 arrows that go in a triangular circle. This shows that the cycle continues. Items are thrown away but continue their lives as something else.

Let's get back to the process of recycling. Once you put all your items in a recycling bin, a truck comes to pick them up. Everything goes to a recycling plant. There, the materials get separated. They go into different piles. There are special machines that crush each pile together. The materials get squashed into square

cubes. They are really heavy. You would need a forklift to carry them.

Companies buy these cubes and turn them into new products.

Now let's take a closer look at how old paper is transformed. First the paper is torn into tiny pieces. Then a special water with chemicals is poured onto it. The fibers start to stick together. In time, a brand new roll of paper is created! If there were things written or printed on the first paper, they disappear.



Recycling keeps our planet healthy. It reduces waste. It also saves energy. You can do your part. So just remember the golden rule: always recycle your products!

## About the Author



Lydia Lukidis is a published children's author with a multi-disciplinary background that spans the fields of literature, theater and puppetry.

Lydia's picture book, *Gerbs in the House: The Dilly Dally Bedtime Routine*, is now available. Find out if Mocha will ever get his silly son to sleep!

Lukidis, Lydia. *Gerbs in the House: The Dilly Dally Bedtime Routine* ISBN: 978-0-9917402-7-7

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1. According to the article, give four examples of household items that can be recycled.

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2. The following choices are steps in the process of recycling. Write a number (1 – 4) on the line next to each step to show which happens first, which happens next, and which happens last.

\_\_\_\_\_ Companies buy the cubes of crushed materials and turn them into new products.

\_\_\_\_\_ The items you put in your recycling bin get picked up by a truck and brought to a recycling plant.

\_\_\_\_\_ The materials get separated into different piles.

\_\_\_\_\_ Special machines crush each pile into a square cube.

3. What do the three arrows of the recycling loop show?

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4. When old paper is transformed into new paper, what causes the fibers of the tiny pieces of paper to stick together?

- a. a thick, sticky paste
- b. a special water with chemicals poured onto it
- c. a very strong glue
- d. a yellow powder

5. What are two ways that recycling keeps our planet healthy?

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Match each vocabulary word from the article with the correct definition.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. crush

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. disappear

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. scientific

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. bin

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. reduces

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. products

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. cycle

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. forklift

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. curious

a. makes smaller

b. a box used to store things

c. steps that happen one after another in the same order

d. to squeeze something very hard until it breaks

e. a machine that can carry heavy loads

f. to go out of view

g. having to do with science

h. eager to learn about something new

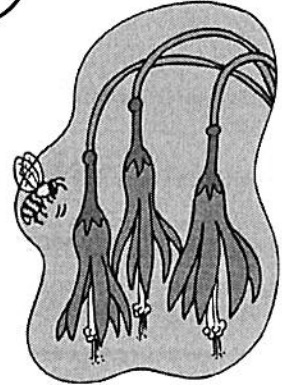
i. things that are made

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## Subjects & Predicates

Choose a subject from the box to complete each sentence.

A big spider	A buzzing bee	My notebook
A gray dolphin	My mother	My closet
The houseplant	The eye doctor	The space alien



1. \_\_\_\_\_ looked for nectar in the flower.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ has lots of clothes in it.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ checked my vision.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ needs soil, water, and sunlight.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ landed the UFO.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ jumped in the sea.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ was upset because I broke her favorite vase.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ is filled with stories that I wrote.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ spun a web in the doorway.

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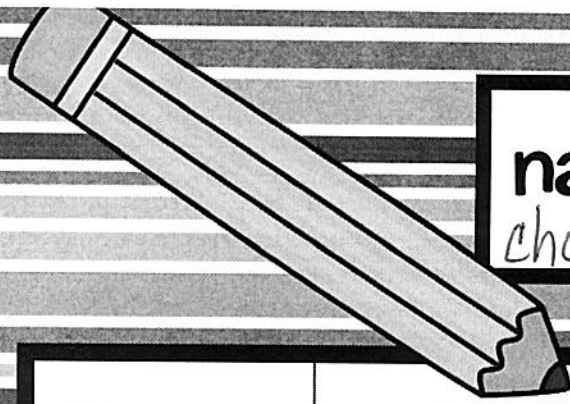
## Subjects & Predicates

Choose a predicate from the box to complete each sentence.

watered her flowers.    barked all night long.    drove me to school.  
blew in the wind.    ate crickets.    cut the boy's hair.  
fixed the sink.    slept in her crib.    flew the airplane.

1. The gardener \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The pilot \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The little puppy \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The barber \_\_\_\_\_.
5. James' baby sister \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The flag \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The lizard \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The plumber \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The bus driver \_\_\_\_\_.





name \_\_\_\_\_

Choose five squares to do each week.

Return when all 5 weeks are complete.

**W**

**R**

**i**

**t**

**e**

Write 5 words that describe you.

Write 5 words that describe someone at home.

Write about your favorite holiday.

Make a list of all the things that are laying on your bedroom floor.

Write as many words you can think of that rhyme with "play".

Have someone from home write about their favorite memory of 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

Write about the funniest thing that has ever happened to you.

Write a letter to the principal.

Write a journal entry in the dark with a flashlight.

Read a story to someone. Have mom or dad write a brief summary about the book.

Write about the best field trip you went on.

Make a list of your favorite foods.



Read a story by yourself. Write a brief summary about the story.

Write 3 questions you would like to ask the President of the United States.

Write down 10 things you can hear at home.

Write a thank you note to somebody.

Write sight words in shaving cream.

Have someone at home write 3 reasons they are proud of you.

Write as many words as you can think of that begin with "ch".

Write about your favorite animal.

Write a word with your finger on someone's back and have them guess it.

Write 2 sentences about the weather. Check punctuation.

Write a poem with someone at home.

Write a story of your choice.





## Family Project

Create a boat out of recycled material. Be creative. You can use paper, sponges, empty water bottles, etc. Don't forget to decorate it. Have fun. A few ideas...

