

## Recycle It



### Purpose:

This patch is designed to increase awareness of the importance of recycling. Did you know that the energy saved from one glass bottle will light a 100-watt light bulb for four hours? Did you know that the United States throws away 2.5 million plastic bottles every hour? With the threat of many environmental problems, recycling is necessary to help the world survive. This patch will help you with the basics of recycling.

### Requirements:

*Daisies: Complete the starred activities in each section*

*Brownies: Complete the starred activities in each section, plus two additional activities*

*Juniors: Complete the starred activities in each section, plus three additional activities*

*Cadettes: Complete the starred activities in each section, plus four additional activities*

*Seniors: Complete the starred activities in each section, plus five additional activities*

*Ambassadors: Complete the starred activities in each section, plus six additional activities*

### Discover

1. Keep a journal of the number of plastics, newspapers, cardboard boxes, glass bottles and aluminum cans your family uses in one week. Using multiplication, find out how much your family would consume in one month, one year and a lifetime. Go to this link to learn what you can recycling. <https://recyclingsimplified.com/>
2. Find out how your state government has dealt with the topic of recycling. What programs have been started? How does your state compare with other states in the number of recycled items? Write to them your opinions and information. You could possibly write to local government officials also.
3. \*List 15 non-recyclable items. See if they are also made in a recyclable form or think of some other item that could be used. Share this list with family and friends. Encourage them to use the reusable or recyclable items.

### Connect

1. \*On a map of your area, locate recycling drop off locations. Possibly, color code the map by giving each recyclable item which is accepted a different color. Which facility is closest to you? Visit it!
2. Find out how many types of items the United States recycles and how many pieces of each type. When and where did recycling begin? How soon did the United States become involved? Are we leading or behind other countries in our recycling efforts? Have an international visitor discuss her country's environmental problems and solutions.

3. Find out where your trash goes and how much trash that facility can hold. How are landfills designed? How much trash can fit in a garbage truck? What simple things could be done to help a trash collector do their job? Also, how do compost heaps work?
4. Find out how many trees it takes to make all of your family's newspapers for a year. Pick a room in your house and list the products that were made from a tree. How many of these items does your family recycle?

### Take Action

1. \*Visit a recycling center on a local web site. How did they begin? Who was it founded by? What materials do they accept? What is the average amount received of each material? Do the workers volunteer? If not, who pays them?
2. Pick a large, local business. Ask the staff if they use recycled and recyclable products. Encourage the president/manager to begin environmental programs. Offer to collect their recycled goods.
3. Somehow help a recycling center or drop off location, maybe by making signs for advertisement or volunteering your time to help in sorting or transporting the materials.
4. Create a game dealing with recycling or play a recycling game. Give the players an opportunity to learn and have fun.
5. Find out how recycling works. For example, find out how a plastic shampoo bottle could turn into a plastic bag. Tell others what you learn, possibly with a poster showing the process of recycling.
6. You don't always have to take recyclable things to a drop off location. Recycle the fun way! Learn how to make a craft out of used materials or create something yourself. Use your imagination to lower the amount of trash you throw away!