

Trash & Recycling Packet



Made by Liesl
homeschoolden.com



homeschoolden.com

New 30+page Trash and Recycling Unit!

This spring, we have been focusing on Environmental Studies. We spent several weeks on this new Trash and Recycling Unit. We learned so much about waste management and recycling not only on a national and global level, but also right here in our local vicinity!

- What happens to our trash? Learn what percentage of trash is placed in landfills, burned or recycled.
- Find out what can be recycled in your area.
- Find out amazing facts such as -- Last year about 36 billion aluminum cans were placed in landfills. And... in the United States, we throw away 2.5 million plastic bottles every hour!
- Find out what do those recycle numbers mean.
- Learn about plastic in our oceans.
- Learn about composting.
- Learn what products can be made from recycled goods
- and much more!!

The new Trash and Recycling Unit includes notebook pages, worksheets, activities and a Trash & Recycling Booklet.

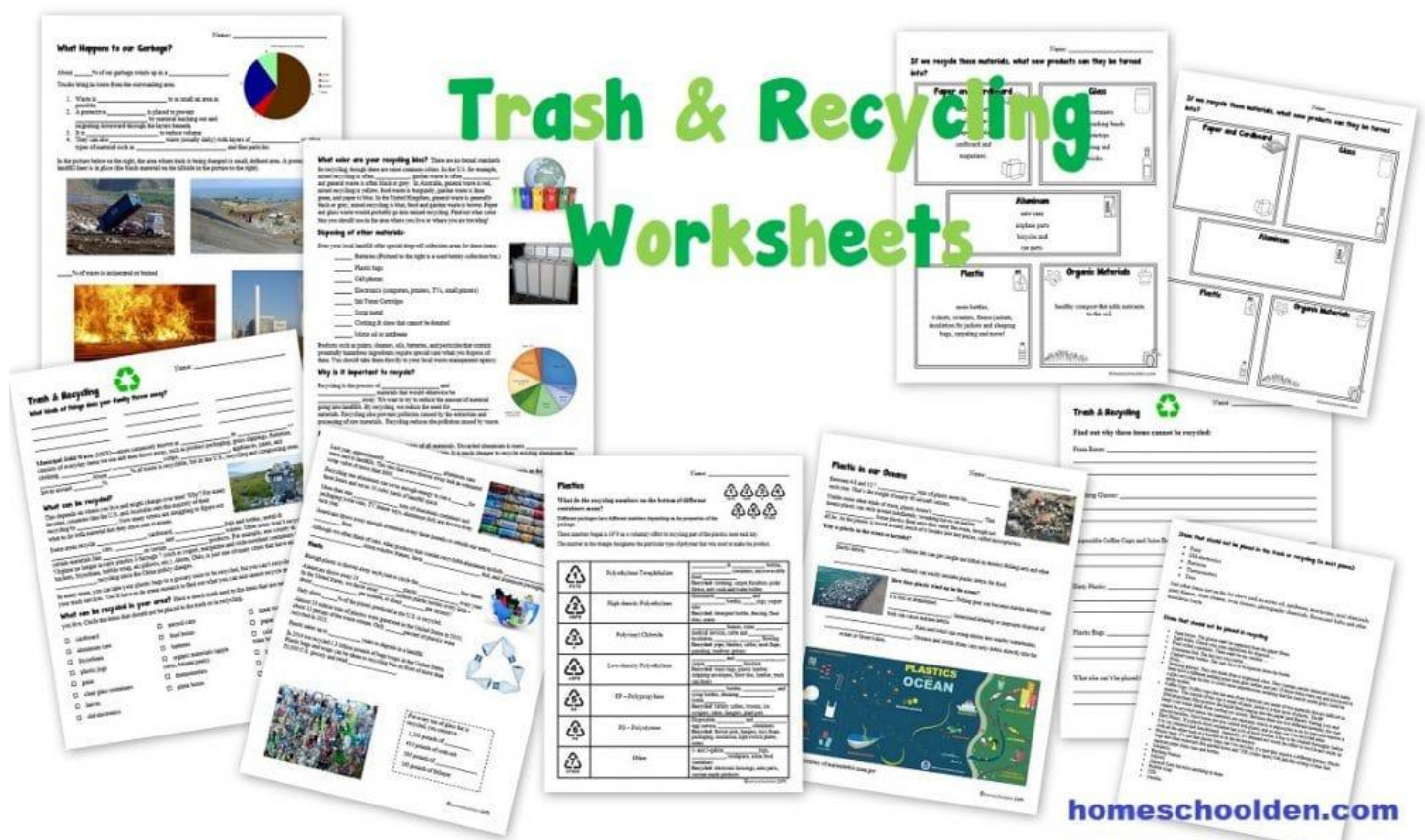


My daughter actually started this unit with the **Trash & Recycling Booklet**. She ♥ loved that and spent a lot of time coloring in the booklet. This booklet has tracing, so it is an activity that students can do independently.



We then went on to talk about various topics with the trash & recycling worksheets. I used these with all three of my kids (11, 13, 15) and we all learned a lot! Some of the topics we talked about (in our notebook pages) include

- What happens to our garbage? (with questions that have students find out what happens on a local level)
- What can be recycled
- Disposing of hazardous materials
- Why it's important to recycle
- Statistics and facts about recycling aluminum
- Statistics and facts about recycling Plastics
- Recycling Numbers (on plastics) and what each of these 7 types of plastics can be made into if recycled
- Plastics in our Oceans
- Composting
- What products can be made from recycled materials?



I think we all learned SO much about recycling plastics. (I was always a little baffled by those numbers before we did this unit!) We went over what how those plastic recycling numbers came about, what they mean, what materials are used and what products can be made out of these recycled goods. There is a notebook page and a cut-and-paste activity. We actually stuck one of them on the fridge to help us remember! :)

Recycling Plastic

Plastics

Plastics

Plastics

homeschoolden.com

Finally, there is a Sort Your Trash Activity. It includes worksheets with a section for "special handling" because in many areas there are items that should not be placed in the trash or in recycling bins. We used the Recycle/Trash Worksheet that you see below, but there are also colored bins if you want to use that with your students. Let me know if there's something slightly different that would suit your needs better. :)

Trash & Recycling Sorting Activity

Recycle

Recycle

Recycle

homeschoolden.com

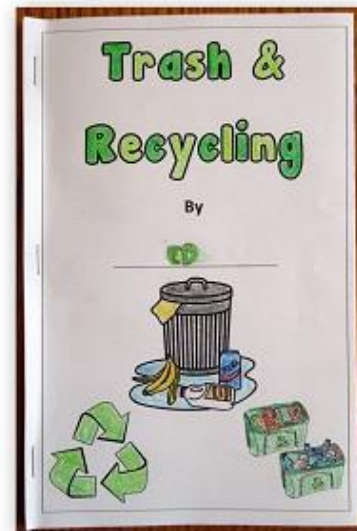
Trash and Recycling Booklet:

Print out the following pages ONE SIDED.

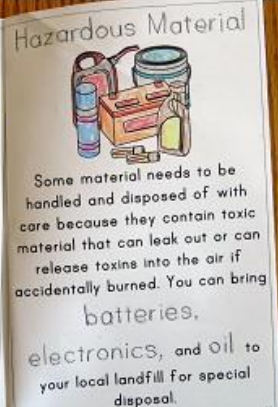
Fold each paper in half. Stack the folded papers on top of one another. Staple on the left-hand side.



Fold each page in half. Stack the pages (note the page numbers in the lower right corner of each page). Staple along the left-hand side.



Trash & Recycling Booklet



This packet is designed to help your kids discover what can/should be recycled in YOUR area! I have given you suggested answers, but you and your students will need to spend some time looking at the recycling practices in your local area. If you live in the U.S., you can find out what you can recycle by visiting this site and typing in your zipcode: <https://berecycled.org/>



Parent/Teacher Reading: If you want to read a recent article about the recent struggles surrounding recycling, you might want to read this article in *The Atlantic* from March 5, 2019, “Is This the End of Recycling.” <https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2019/03/china-has-stopped-accepting-our-trash/584131/>

My daughter started off this unit by working on the **Trash and Recycling Booklet** on her own. Then we went on to the notebook pages (which go into more depth).

There are a number of **notebook pages**

- student notebook pages (with fill-in-the-blanks)
- answer pages (which can be read together instead) – Most of the time the answer page follows the student page, but there is two student pages (8-9) that are together with the teacher pages following (on pages 10-11)

Plastics: There are notebook pages and a sorting activity for learning about the different types of plastics, how they are sorted and what they can be used for when recycled.



These is a **“Sort Your Trash” Activity**. (pages 24 to 28) You can use the sorting mat that I made or have your kids/students sort materials into the colored bins that match the recycling program in your area using some or all of the 6 colored bins that are also provided.

- Talk with your kids about the trash disposal and recycling options in your area. Does your local landfill have special areas to dispose of batteries, phones, thermometers, and other hazardous materials? (Since our local landfill has special bins/ways of disposing these items, we placed in them in the “special handling” spot on the sorting mat.) Anything that can explode, ignite, leak, mix with other chemical or cause hazards on the way to a disposal facility requires special handling.
- Note: I also put the plastic bag in special handling because in general you have to take them to grocery stores to recycle them. Similarly, CDs can be recycled, but have to be sent to specific places to be recycled. When not recycled properly, discs will last forever in a landfill or emit harmful gases into the atmosphere from an incinerator.
- I have a suggested sorting answer page... but you might decide to place items in different areas depending on your local landfill and recycling options.
- Some things like shampoo bottles can be recycled but the tops cannot.



Trash and Recycling Booklet: pages 29 to 35

Print out the pages ONE-SIDED and fold each page in half. Staple along the left-hand side. Trace the key words.

If your student/s are older, they can use the notebook page provided on page 26 to cover the products that recycled materials can be turned into.



Recycling Products Notebook Page: page 36-37

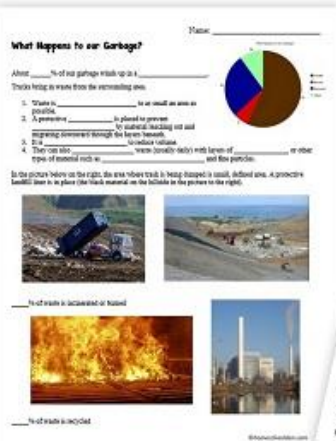
What can you do to protect the environment? Notebook Pages: pages 38-39

Trash & Recycling Unit

Trash & Recycling Booklet

homeschoolden.com

homeschoolden.com



Plastics

What do the recycling numbers on the bottom of different containers mean?

Each number has a different meaning depending on the properties of the plastic.

These numbers range from 1 to 7 and are a voluntary effort to recycling part of the plastic used each day.

The number in the triangle indicates the particular type of plastic that you need to make the product.

Recycling Number	Plastic Type	Common Uses
1	Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET)	Beverage bottles, food containers, etc.
2	High-density Polyethylene (HDPE)	Plastic bottles, jugs, tubs, etc.
3	Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)	Plastic pipes, vinyl flooring, etc.
4	Low-density Polyethylene (LDPE)	Plastic bags, films, etc.
5	PP - Polypropylene	Plastic bottles, containers, etc.
6	PS - Polystyrene	Plastic cups, containers, etc.
7	Other	Plastic bottles, containers, etc.

Plastics

What do the recycling numbers on the bottom of different containers mean?

Each number has a different meaning depending on the properties of the plastic.

These numbers range from 1 to 7 and are a voluntary effort to recycling part of the plastic used each day.

The number in the triangle indicates the particular type of plastic that you need to make the product.

Recycling Number	Plastic Type	Common Uses
1	Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET)	Beverage bottles, food containers, etc.
2	High-density Polyethylene (HDPE)	Plastic bottles, jugs, tubs, etc.
3	Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)	Plastic pipes, vinyl flooring, etc.
4	Low-density Polyethylene (LDPE)	Plastic bags, films, etc.
5	PP - Polypropylene	Plastic bottles, containers, etc.
6	PS - Polystyrene	Plastic cups, containers, etc.
7	Other	Plastic bottles, containers, etc.



Recycle	Trash
Compost	Special Handling

