

Close the Loop

Lesson 1: What Am I Made Of?

Grade Level:

K-2

Concepts Taught:

Recycling, sorting/grouping/
matching objects

Activity Time(s):

20 minutes (lesson), 10 minutes
(follow-up)

Essential Questions:

- What new items are made from recycling paper, plastic, and soda cans?

NC CORE/Essential Standards:

Kindergarten: Reading: Foundational Skills 1—3; Speaking/Listening 1, 6; Math K.MD.3; Science K.P.2.1; Soc Std K.G.2.2;

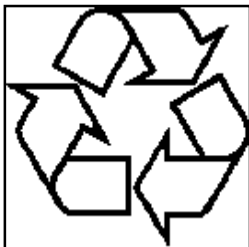
Grade 1: Science 1.L.1.3; Soc Std 1.G.2.1; Speaking/Listening Std 1; Math 1.G.1;

Grade 2: Speaking/Listening Std 1, 3, 6; Soc Std 2.G.2.1, 2.G.2.2;

Materials:

Recycled content products (cereal boxes, soda cans, etc.)

NEED Project book Trash Flipbook (optional) Download online at <http://www.need.org/node/67>

**Objectives:**

- Students will recognize that recycled materials are made into new things.
- Students will match recycled content items to the recyclable materials they are made from

Procedure:

When we recycle materials, they are used again to be made into new products. Use the NEED Project's [Trash Flip Book](#) to discuss with students how items we recycle are used to make new things.

1. Show the students recycled content products along with the materials used to make them. For example, explain that recycled cereal boxes are made from old boxes and paper that people have recycled, showing the three-arrow recycling logo and message that says that the box is made from recycled materials. Repeat for the other items that can be found easily at home or school:

Bathroom tissue made from recycled paper

Cracker or cake boxes made from recycled paper/chipboard

Sticky notes made from recycled paper

Pencils made from recycled paper

Fleece made from recycled plastic bottles

Steel food cans made from recycled steel

2. Continue to show the items to the students, allowing them to pass the items around to find the three-arrow recycling symbol. Include some items that do not have the symbol and allow students to discuss how that product could possibly be made from recycled materials.

3. Use the matching worksheet for students to independently match an item that can be recycled to its final recycled-content product. The sheets may be laminated and marked on with crayon and wiped clean with tissues or other soft paper such as scraps of construction paper and reused. Students may exchange cards and check each other's answers.

Lesson 1: What Am I Made Of? Continued...

Extensions/Modifications:

Students can participate in a scavenger hunt to look for items that contain recycled content.

Students can look at home, school, stores, or in catalogs for items that have the three-arrow recycling symbol or labels that indicate the product is made from recycled content.

They can collect items from home and bring them in or make a list of the things they found, or cut out pictures of the symbol or label. Students can exchange items or lists, and discuss how the items could be used at home or school.

Close the Loop

Name _____

What Am I Made Of?

Draw a line from the pictures on the left to what it is made of on the right.



Classroom Bin



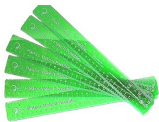
Soda Can



Pencil



Toilet Paper



Rulers



Newspaper



Foil



Aluminum Can



Paper



Plastic Bottle

Close the Loop

Name ANSWER KEY

What Am I Made Of?

Draw a line from the pictures on the left to what it is made of on the right.



Classroom Bin



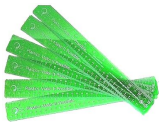
Soda Can



Pencil



Toilet Paper



Rulers



Newspaper



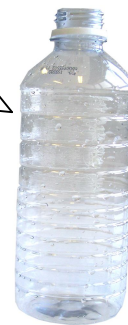
Foil



Aluminum Can



Paper



Plastic Bottle

Close the Loop

Lesson 2: Buy Recycled Friendly Letters

Grade Level:

3-5

Concepts Taught:

Letter-writing, sentence structure

Activity Time(s):

20 minutes (lesson), 50 minutes (follow-up)

Essential Questions:

- What does “buy recycled” mean?
- What is the friendly letter format?
- How do I know something was made from a recycled material?

NC CORE/Essential Standards:

Grade 3: Writing Std 1-6, 8; Speaking/Listening Std 1, 2, 4; Soc Std 3.G.1.3, 3.C&G2.2; Computer/Technology 3.TT.1– 3.TT.3;

Grade 4: Writing Std 1-8; Speaking/Listening Std 1, 4, 5; Soc Std 4.G.1.3; Computer/Technology 4.TT.1– 4.TT.3;

Grade 5: Writing Std 1-6; Speaking/Listening 1-6;

Materials:

Friendly letter sample transparencies

Friendly Letter template (included)

Reusable stationery

Grading rubric (included)

Examples of packaging

Objectives:

- Students will understand the phrase “Buy Recycled” and realize its importance.
- Students will write a friendly letter to persuade another person to buy recycled.
- Students will utilize proofreading and editing skills in preparation of a final draft letter.

Procedure:

1. Review or teach the friendly letter format of writing. Remind students what the three-arrow recycling symbol means and why it is important to close the loop and buy recycled.
 1. Show students examples of the three-arrow recycling symbol on packaging (cereal boxes, cracker boxes, and similar boxes are usually good examples).
 2. Ask students what they think a “pen pal” is and if they have ever had a pen pal. Explain to students that they will write a letter to a friend telling them why buying recycled is important. Remind students that they should ask questions in the letter so that the person receiving it will have something to respond to.
 3. Brainstorm ideas to write about and write them on the board. Ideas could include reasons why buying recycled is important, explaining the phrase “close the loop,” and giving examples of recycled content products. Brainstorm and record questions that might be included in the letter.
 4. Review the format of a friendly letter using the friendly letter template included in this kit. A sample letter is also provided.
 5. Have students write a rough draft of their letter. Students should then exchange letters with a partner and proofread each other’s work. Instruct students to write their revised letters on final stationery.

