

Close the Loop



What am I Made Of? Matching Grades K-2

Materials: Recycled content products, NEED Project book Trash Flipbook (optional)

Activity Time: 20 minutes (lesson), 10 minutes (follow-up)

Concepts Taught: Recycling, sorting/grouping/matching objects

Correlations to NCSCOS: **Kindergarten:** ELA Objectives 1.03, 4.04; Math Objective 5.01, Science Objective 3.04, Art Objective 2.03; **Grade 1:** ELA Objective 4.04; Math Objective 5.01, Science Objective 3.01; **Grade 2:** ELA Objectives 4.04, 4.05

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.

Background:

- The three-arrow recycling symbol represents the three steps of recycling: 1) collection of recyclables, 2) manufacturing new products from recyclables, and 3) buying recycled.
- The phrase “Close the Loop” refers to the idea that buying products with recycled content finishes the loop made by the three arrows in the recycling symbol.
- **The three-arrow recycling symbol does not always indicate that a product is made from recycled content.**
 - It can simply be a reminder to recycle or can indicate that the product is recyclable.
 - There may also be labels on the product that describe the amount of post-consumer material included in the product. Post-consumer content is material that has been through consumer hands, or material that people have used and recycled. Other recycled content is usually factory leftovers such as material left over after a box has been cut from a pattern or items reclaimed from the factory floor.
- Buying recycled content material saves natural resources such as trees, land, and energy.
- Some examples of recycled content products include: newspapers, bathroom tissue, or notebook paper made from recycled paper; aluminum cans, pie tins, or bleachers made from recycled aluminum cans; fleece jackets, toys, T-shirts, lumber and playground equipment made from recycled plastic bottles.

Lesson:

1. Introduce the concepts above. 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 that we recycle are used to make new things. Pages 33-43 are especially helpful.

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2. 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:
 - a. Bathroom tissue made from recycled paper
 - b. Cracker or cake boxes made from recycled paper/chipboard
 - c. Sticky notes made from recycled paper
 - d. Pencils made from recycled paper
 - e. Fleece made from recycled plastic bottles
 - f. Steel food cans made from recycled steel
3. 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.
4. 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.

Extension:

- 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.

