

## Lesson 1: Trash Sort

**Grade Level:**

**K-2**

**Concepts Taught:**

Recycling, sorting/grouping objects

**Activity Time(s):**

20 minutes (lesson)

10 minutes (follow-up)

**Essential Questions:**

- What does the 3-arrow recycling symbol mean?
- What kinds of things can we recycle in our bin?
- What kinds of things should NOT go into the bin?

**N.C. CORE/Essential Standards:**

**Kindergarten:** ELA Standard for Speaking & Listening #6, Math Objective K.MD.3; Social Studies Objectives K.C&G.1.1; K.G.2; Science Objective K.P.2.1

**Grade 1:** ELA Standard for Speaking & Listening #1; Math Objective 1.G.1; Social Studies Objectives 1.G.2.1, 1.G.2.2, 1.C&G.1.3

**Grade 2:** ELA Standard for Speaking & Listening #1, 3, 4,6; Social Studies Objectives 2.G.2.2, 2.C&G.2.1

**Materials:**

“Clean items to be sorted

Recycling bin

Trash can

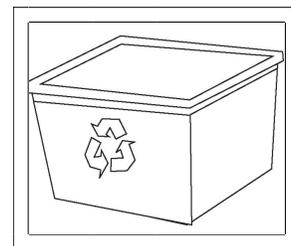
Laminated copies of “what can you feed the bin” matching worksheet

**Objectives:**

- Students will identify items that can be recycled from those that cannot.
- Students will sort and match items based on whether they are recyclable

**Procedure:**

1. Review the three-arrow symbol and its three steps with students (*see background section*). We are able to recycle certain materials at the school. When we recycle materials, they are used again and made into new products. The bin likes to be fed certain objects.
2. Ask the students ***which objects can we feed the classroom bin?*** Answers may include notebook paper, white and colored computer paper, copy paper, envelopes, junk mail, letterhead, newspapers, file folders, sticky notes, posters, pamphlets and brochures, and magazines and catalogs. (Remind students that staples, paper clips, and small amounts of crayon are okay to be included).
3. Explain that students should feed the bin as much as they can each day but, that we should not feed the bin anything it doesn't like. Place the trash can and the classroom bin where students can easily reach them.
4. Give each student a piece of the clean trash. Explain that they must put the clean trash in the correct location: either the trash can or the paper recycling bin. Ask students to take their object to the correct container.
5. After students have placed their objects, go through each bin in front of the class. Ask them to make certain that each bin has the correct objects in it. As you are examining the contents of the trash can, have students suggest a way the item could be reused in the classroom instead of throwing it in the trash.
6. Use the matching worksheet for students to independently circle items that belong in the classroom bin and “X” items that go in the trashcan. The laminated sheets may be marked on with crayon and wiped clean with tissues or other soft paper such as scraps of con-



## Feed the Bin

struction paper and reused. Students may exchange cards and check each other's answers.

### **Extensions/Modifications:**

1. Students may enjoy sorting the "clean trash" in small groups. Give each group 10 objects to sort so that they can discuss its location together before placing it in the bin. Groups can be timed with how long it takes them to sort their objects. Each group can try to beat their own group time or compete with other groups to see who can sort the "trash" the fastest.
2. Students may also enjoy a recycling relay. Have two or three teams each form a line, with a recycling bin and trash can at the end of each line. When you say start, they pass objects down the line and say either "trash" or "recycle". Each person must pass the item some way other than how they got it (over head/under legs/around back). Once it gets to the end of the line, they must put it in the correct container. The team that gets the most correct in a certain amount of time wins.

## Trash Sort Lesson

If your school is not a Wake County Feed the Bin school, check with your local recycling coordinator to find out what materials are recyclable in your area.

### Recyclable

- Brochures/Pamphlets
- Colored Paper
- Envelopes
- File Folders
- Junk Mail (not included in packet)
- Letterhead
- Magazines/Catalogs
- Newspaper
- Notebook Paper
- Posters
- Sticky Notes
- White Paper

### Not Recyclable

- Construction Paper
- Copy Paper Wrappers
- Facial Tissues
- Food Wrappers
- Lined Wood Fiber Paper (Handwriting Paper)
- Napkins (not included in packet)
- Paper Towels
- Plastic Report Covers (not included in packet)
- Photographs (not included in packet)
- Textbooks (not included in packet)
- Tissue Paper

# Feed the Bin

## What Can You Feed the Bin?

Make a circle around the things that go in the classroom bin. Make an X on the things that go in the trashcan.



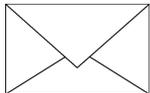
Apple Core



Magazine



Gum Wrappers



Envelope



File Folder



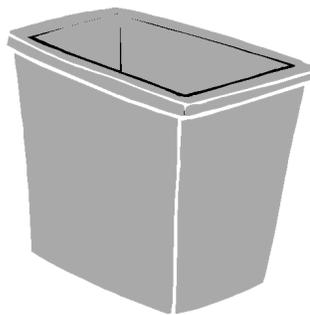
Newspaper



Tissues



Classroom Bin



Trash Can



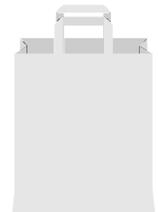
Notebook Paper



Pencil



Copy Paper



Paper Bag



Shoes



Toilet Paper

# What Can You Feed the Bin?

Make a circle around the things that go in the classroom bin. Make an X over the things that go in the trashcan.

