

Recycling Relay

Age/Grade Range

- Age 6-10

Group Size

- 10-30 students

Time

- Prep time: 30 minutes
- Set-up: 5 minutes
- Activity: 10-20 minutes

Materials

- About five recycling bins labelled with the different categories of recyclables (paper, tin cans, plastic, etc.)
- One small garbage bin
- Junk, including recyclables from all of the different categories and some non-recyclable items. You can do compostable but nothing too slimy.

Set-Up

1. You'll need an open field or room to do the activity: the younger the kids, the less space you'll need.
2. You can set up the bins on the far side of the room beforehand.



NWT SCIENCE FOCUS

Topics

- Waste

Objective

- Learn about the importance of recycling and what waste goes in which bin.



Activity Directions

1. Intro: Talk about what happens to our plastic bag, for example, when we throw it in the garbage can (it might not break down for 100's of years!) and the problems caused by generating too much garbage. Discuss different ways we can reduce the amount of waste we produce (buying less in the first place, recycling, reusing, composting, etc.). They like when you talk about all the weird things that other people have thrown in the compost, like cell phones, vacuum cleaners, metal forks and spoons. (*Are these things compostable? No!*)
2. Make teams of 4-6 people and line them up at one end of the playing field or gym.
3. Give each team a pile of junk with the same amount of objects.
4. Line the recycling bins and the garbage bin on the far side of the room/field.
5. Do a quick review of some of the things that go into each bin. You might be able to skip this step for older kids. Explain the rules of the game (below).
6. One at a time, the kids grab one of the pieces of junk in front of them, and run to put in the right bin. Once they've run back and have given the next person in line a high-five, the next person grabs something else and goes.
7. The first team to have all their 'junk' sorted wins.
8. Be sure to look in all the bins afterward to make sure that they sorted everything properly.
9. If there are any misplaced pieces, talk about them with the class. Get them to tell you where it should go.

Pairs Well With

- Musical Instruments Out of Trash

