



RECYCLING: FACT OR FICTION?

In this activity, students test their recycling knowledge with fun trivia questions to separate fact from fiction. Then, they turn their learning into action by creating a "Recycling: Fact or Fiction?" bulletin board to educate others and spark conversation in the school community.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Explain the circular economy
- Identify what belongs in recycling
- Explain why collective action leads to greater positive impact

DURING THIS ACTIVITY, STUDENTS WILL:

- Answer recycling trivia questions
- Learn about and debunk common misconceptions
- Share their knowledge with others by creating a Recycling Fact or Fiction bulletin board

MATERIALS:

- Earth Rangers Fact or Fiction Recycling Trivia
- Mini wipe boards and markers
- Art materials to make posters

EARTH RANGERS FACT OR
FICTION RECYCLING TRIVIA

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Ask students what they know about recycling and introduce the idea of the circular economy.
2. Explain that they are going to answer trivia questions to figure out what people often get wrong about recycling and how those mistakes can affect the circular economy.
3. Separate the class into teams and give each team a wipe board so they can write down their answer to each question (true or false). Go through the [Earth Rangers Fact or Fiction Recycling Trivia](#). Teams get one point for a correct answer. Tally the points on the board.

GRADE LEVEL 4-6

Recycling and circular economy explained to kids

Recycling is when materials like paper, plastic, and metal are broken down and used to make new products or packaging. To make sure things get recycled, they need to be clean and only the right materials should go in the recycling container.

A **circular economy** is when materials can be used again and again. Once recyclables have been collected, sorted and processed, they can be used to make something new.

REFLECT AND SHARE

4. Discuss the trivia using the following questions as a guide:

- What's something you thought was true about recycling that wasn't?
- Why is checking the local rules one of the most important things we can do?
- What is contamination and why is it a problem?
- How can we help our families keep the recycling loop working?

5. Create a Recycling Fact or Fiction Bulletin Board so students can share their knowledge with others. Have each group select one piece of trivia, illustrate it and explain its importance.

Contamination explained to kids

Contamination happens when the wrong materials or dirty items are put in your recycling. This can ruin clean materials and make it harder to turn them into new things.

RESOURCES

Ready. Recycle. Repeat.

Recycling guidelines for residents of Alberta, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and the Yukon can be found by visiting: circularmaterials.ca/recycle

For other provinces and territories

[Newfoundland and Labrador](#) (Rethink Waste NL)

[Prince Edward Island](#) (IMWC)

[Québec](#) (Éco Entreprises Québec)

Nunavut - Check with local community

[Manitoba](#) (MMSM)

[Saskatchewan](#) (SK Recycles)

[British Columbia](#) (Recycle BC)

[Northwest Territories](#) (Government of Northwest Territories)

Info sheet for educators: [Why Recycle](#) (Earth Rangers)

[Recycling Fact or Fiction Trivia](#) (Earth Rangers)





Recycling: Fact or Fiction?

TRIVIA

1. Materials with a triangle symbol are recyclable.

FALSE

The triangle symbol doesn't always mean the item is accepted—check first at circularmaterials.ca/recycle.

2. Metal materials, like aluminum pie plates or pet food cans, are some of the most valuable materials to recycle.

TRUE

Aluminum can be recycled infinite times and saves a lot of energy when reused.

3. Recycling guidelines are the same everywhere in Canada

FALSE

Guidelines vary by province and territory. Check yours at circularmaterials.ca/recycle.

4. Recycling rules change over time.

TRUE

Sometimes there are changes to recycling to ensure efficient and effective recycling systems are in place.

5. All plastics labeled with a number are recyclable.

FALSE

Not all numbered plastics are accepted. Check first at circularmaterials.ca/recycle.

6. Recycling saves energy.

TRUE

Making new materials from recycled materials uses less energy than making them from scratch.

7. Food left in containers doesn't matter.

FALSE

Food can spoil recycling and make it harder to recycle. Always be sure to rinse and dry containers before recycling!

8. If I'm not sure, I should recycle it anyway.

FALSE

It's better to check than to guess—putting the wrong materials in your recycling can contaminate the right ones. Check first at circularmaterials.ca/recycle.

9. Recyclables need to be rinsed and empty, but don't have to be perfectly clean.

TRUE

Containers don't have to be squeaky clean, a short rinse will do to ensure they can be recycled.

10. Toys can go in the recycling.

FALSE

Toys do not belong in the recycling. Consider donating instead.

**Thank you for helping the environment
and making a positive impact by recycling!**