Why Do We Recycle?



by Kathy Staugler

Illustrated by Amanda Noss



Our Earth is a good place to live. We have land and water on Earth. We have plants and trees. People build houses. Farmers grow food. But we must take care of the Earth so it will stay a good place to live.



Recycling is one way to help the Earth. Recycling means to take something old and make something new from it. Instead of throwing things in the trash, we can **recycle** it to make something else that we can use. There are many things that can be recycled.



Have you seen this sign before? It is the recycling loop. The three arrows on the sign tell us about the three steps of recycling. First - collect things to recycle. Second - make something new from the recycled things. Third - buy new things that are made from recycled materials.



Trees are used to make paper. We can recycle our old paper. The old paper will be made into new paper products, like napkins or toilet paper. Fewer trees will need to be cut down when we recycle.



Landfills are places where our trash goes. It is not good for the land to have a lot of landfills. By recycling, we **reduce** the trash that goes into landfills. If we don't recycle, more and more trash will go to landfills until they all get filled up. Then where will the trash go?



Aluminum is a metal. We get metal from the Earth. A soda can is made of aluminum. Aluminum can be recycled to make new cans. That means that less metal will need to be taken from the Earth.



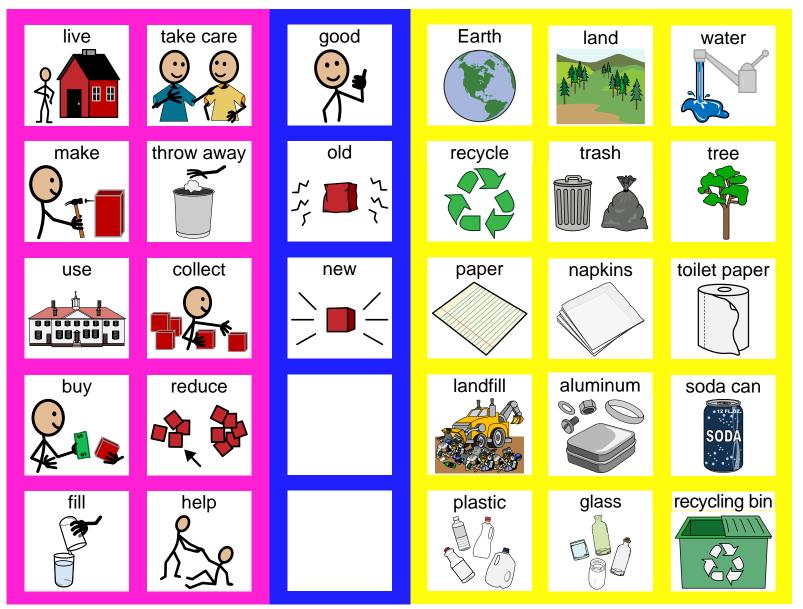
We can keep the Earth clean so it is a good place to live. Learn about ways to recycle in your school and your community. Don't throw plastic, glass, paper or metal in the trash. Find a recycling bin and help the Earth.





Why Do We Recycle?





Glossary



landfill - an area of land where trash is buried



reduce - to make less of



recycle - to take something old and make something new that we can use