

Chapter 6

Supplemental
Learning Opportunities

Waste reduction doesn't just happen in the classroom. New Yorkers need to reduce, reuse, and recycle whenever and wherever possible. It is up to each of us to share the RRR message with others and keep our city sustainable.

Programs such as the **Golden Apple Awards**, **Materials for the Arts**, and the **NYC Compost Project** offer invaluable resources for schools to take recycling, waste prevention, and composting to the next level.

Special events including the **TrashMasters Museum** and **TrashMasters Street Fair** are designed to bring the ideas in the RRRResource Guide to a wider audience. As you participate in them, think about all that you have learned from the Activities in previous chapters, and how you can share that knowledge with others.

The **Home Sheets** are meant to facilitate discussion and help families think about the impact that their actions have on the environment. RRR is about small modifications that we as individuals make in our daily lives in order to make big changes in the world around us.

Programs	Golden Apple Awards for Schools in NYC
	Materials for the Arts
	NYC Compost Project
Events	Creating a TrashMasters Museum
	Creating a TrashMasters Street Fair
Home Sheets	Home Sheet 1: Talking Trash at Home
	Home Sheet 2: Supermarket Shopping Scavenger Hunt
	Home Sheet 3: Keep On Unwrapping
	Home Sheet 4: From Trash to Cash
	Home Sheet 5: Toys Through the Generations
	Home Sheet 6: Trash and RRR at Home
	Home Sheet 7: Brainstorm and Bag It!
	Home Sheet 8: Fast Food Throw-Aways
	Home Sheet 9: Family RRR Contest
	Home Sheet 10: How I Can Be a TrashMaster at Home

Supplemental Learning Opportunities Golden Apple Awards for Schools in NYC



DSNY Golden Apple Awards offer cash prizes in three **TrashMasters!** contests for schools in New York City (both public and private), grades K–12.

Schools can compete in any or all of the three contests by completing separate and distinct projects for each contest. Schools enter in separate Elementary, Intermediate, and High School Divisions.

A judging panel of environmental educators and government officials carefully reviews the entries submitted to select the winners for each borough within each grade division.



TrashMasters!
SUPER Recyclers

Show off your **school's recycling program.**



TrashMasters!
REDUCE & REUSE CHALLENGE

Describe how your school **reduces waste.**



TrashMasters!
Team Up to Clean Up

Brag about your school's **cleanup and gardening projects.**



NYC Compost Project
GOLDEN SHOVEL
MASTER SCHOOL COMPOSTER

TrashMasters! contest entries that show school composting projects are reviewed by the NYC Compost Project to select the Master School Composter in each borough.

Winning schools receive cash prizes and certificates, as well as gifts for their participating students and staff.

Please note: schools cannot win multiple years for the same project. For ongoing projects, schools must explain new initiatives in their contest submissions.

All contest entries must be submitted using our online form. See complete instructions: nyc.gov/wasteless/goldenapple



Supplemental Learning Opportunities

Materials for the Arts

All NYC Public School Teachers Can Get Free Reused Supplies



For more info, see: materialsforthearts.org

Practice Reuse in Your Classroom

Materials for the Arts repurposes unneeded items by providing them for free to teachers and artists. Practice reuse in your classroom by gathering items from Material for the Arts’s warehouse in Long Island City. Use the materials for the project-based learning opportunities presented in this **RRResource Guide** and for other lessons.

Each time you use the supplies, you are giving a hands-on learning experience to your students about how to reuse materials, demonstrating how one person’s waste can be another person’s treasure. The treasures found in Materials for the Arts’s warehouse include stationery and office supplies, furniture, buttons, rolls of fabric, paint, reams of paper, and many other exciting items.

Materials for the Arts

Founded in 1978, Materials for the Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, provides thousands of NYC’s arts and cultural organizations, public schools, and community arts programs with the supplies they need to run and expand their programs.

Materials for the Arts gathers materials from companies and individuals that no longer need them and makes them available, for free, to the artists and educators that do. In the process, hundreds of tons are removed from the waste stream every year and kept out of landfills, which helps sustain our environment, promotes reuse, and reduces waste.

Materials for the Arts helps artists realize their visions, provides students with a richer educational experience, and furnishes businesses and individuals with a simple and efficient way to enhance the cultural life of their city.

In 1978, Angela Fremont, a young artist working out of the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation in Central Park, heard that the staff of the Central Park Zoo was looking for a refrigerator to house medicines for the animals. She put on her thinking cap and called a local radio show to make on-air appeal for a working refrigerator. Within minutes, the zoo’s office was inundated with phone calls and the idea for Materials for the Arts was born.

Starting as a one person operation with a desk and a phone, Materials for the Arts has grown into a program with over a dozen staff members, two trucks, and a 35,000 square foot facility in Long Island City, Queens. Materials for the Arts has formed a unique partnership with the following NYC agencies: Department of Cultural Affairs, Department of Education, and Department of Sanitation.

The Education Center at Materials for the Arts

The Education Center at Materials for the Arts offers programming focused on making art with readily available materials supplemented by the ever-changing warehouse inventory. The Education Center hosts programs on-site in two studio classrooms and sends teaching artists into the community to share the art of reuse. Classes include instruction in projects that can be integrated into the regular curriculum. Learn to make no-sew costumes, hats, masks, puppets, mobiles, wind chimes, found object prints, books, game boards, and musical instruments.

Materials for the Arts helps schools prepare to apply for the NYC Department of Sanitation's Golden Apple Awards. These three contests offer cash prizes for schools in all five boroughs that present the most exemplary recycling, waste reduction, and gardening or beautification projects.

The Education Center at Materials for the Arts also offers a number of Professional Development classes and "P" In-Service credit classes for teachers. Learn how items from the trash or recycling bin and free supplies from Materials for the Arts can be creatively reused to make engaging projects for lessons in all content areas. During Material for the Arts's studio-style courses, teachers focus on developing hands-on lesson plans, aligned with the Arts Blueprint and Common Core standards.

Become a Recipient!

Contact Materials for the Arts to find out about your school's registration status, to reserve shopping appointments, or for information about how to make a donation.

Recipient Shopping Hours

Shopping at MFTA is restricted to recipients with appointments booked online during the following hours (check the website as hours may change):

Tuesdays 9:30 am to 12:30 pm (Warehouse closes at 1:30 pm)

Thursdays 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm (Warehouse closes at 6:00 pm)

First Monday of every month 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm (Warehouse closes at 7:00 pm)

Donation Hours

Donation Drop-Offs must be pre-approved:

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

Office Hours

Monday – Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Gallery Hours

Monday – Friday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Location

Materials for the Arts
33-00 Northern Boulevard, 3rd Floor
Long Island City, NY 11101
718-729-3001

nyc.gov/mfta

Supplemental Learning Opportunities

NYC Compost Project



The NYC Department of Sanitation created the NYC Compost Project in 1993 to provide compost education and outreach to NYC residents, schools, community gardens, nonprofits, and businesses.

The NYC Compost Project is funded and managed through the Department of Sanitation's **Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling**.

For more info, see: nyc.gov/wasteless/compostproject

contact info

Every NYC Compost Project offers a home composting demonstration site, a compost telephone helpline, and compost-related workshops and classes.

NYC Compost Project in the Bronx

The New York Botanical Garden
Bronx, NY 10458-5126
compost helpline: (718) 817-8543
email: compost@nybg.org
web: nybg.org/compost

NYC Compost Project in Queens

Queens Botanical Garden
43-50 Main Street
Flushing, NY 11355
compost helpline: (718) 539-5296
email: compost@queensbotanical.org
web: queensbotanical.org/compost

NYC Compost Project in Brooklyn

Brooklyn Botanic Garden
1000 Washington Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11225
compost helpline: (718) 623-7290
workshop registration: (718) 623-7220
email: compost@bbg.org
web: bbg.org/compost

NYC Compost Project on Staten Island

Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden
1000 Richmond Terrace
Staten Island, NY 10301
compost helpline: (718) 425-3558
workshop registration: (718) 425-3557
email: compost@snug-harbor.org
web: snug-harbor.org/compost

NYC Compost Project in Manhattan

Lower East Side Ecology Center
P.O. Box 20488
New York, NY 10009
compost helpline: (212) 477-3155
email: info@lesecolgycenter.org
web: lesecolgycenter.org



nyc compost project programs

Outdoor Composting Workshops

Learn the essentials of composting, from choosing the right bin to harvesting your finished product. You'll know what to compost, the science of decomposition, ways to speed the process, how to use your finished compost, and helpful tips to avoid or solve common problems. No prior experience is necessary.

Indoor Worm Bin Composting Workshops

Let worms convert your food scraps into compost for your plants. Vermicomposting with red worms is an easy, odor-free way to compost indoors. Learn how to set up a worm bin, troubleshoot questions, and how to harvest and use the finished vermicompost.

Leave It On the Lawn Workshops

Grass clippings are 85% water and 5% nitrogen. Leaving grass clippings on the lawn not only prevents waste, it returns water and nutrients to the soil — reducing the need for fertilizer. These workshops provide step-by-step instructions on mulch mowing and seasonal lawn care.

Master Composter Certificate Course

This comprehensive train-the-trainer program includes intensive classroom instruction, field trips, and 30 hours of independent community outreach to help advance on-site composting in NYC.

Composting for Kids

Every borough offers hands-on workshops for kids, teacher “wormshops,” classroom worm bin visits, and welcomes field trips to see composting in action.

Compost Demonstration Sites

The NYC Compost Project recognizes locations that have exemplary on-site composting operations, to show New Yorkers the benefits of composting.

Technical Assistance

NYC Compost Project sells compost bins, worm bins, and worms at cost. Technical assistance is available for your organization’s composting efforts.



Supplemental Learning Opportunities

Creating a TrashMasters Museum

The TrashMasters Museum gives students a special place and time to share what they have learned about reducing, reusing, and recycling. You can create the Museum in a classroom or in an all-purpose room where students can display the Activities they've completed. You can involve just one class, the entire grade, or even the whole school community.

Once you've decided to create your own TrashMasters Museum, begin by focusing on the following steps:

Step 1:

You and your students first need to decide what you are going to display in your TrashMasters Museum. What you decide on may vary; however, you should attempt to display all of the work the students did as part of the Activities for each chapter.

Next, with the students, look at a calendar and pick a time, date, and place.

Step 2:

The next decision you and your students will need to make is how you want the Museum to look once they've finished making their exhibits. Start by creating a map of the museum location and designating areas that you'll use for different RRR Activities.

When the map is finished, ask the students to include a key indicating which activities are taking place in each area, then clear the actual spaces to make room for the exhibits. Make copies of the maps to hand out to visitors on the day of the TrashMasters Museum.

Step 3:

Summarize important information about the Museum, such as the date, day, time, location, and purpose of the event. Have some students draw posters or create signs to promote the Museum.

In addition to family members, have each student pick one person in the school to invite to the Museum. This can be a teacher, custodian, administrator, or another student. Have each student create invitations for the member of the school community they wish to invite, as well as for family members.

Write a letter to send home to students' families to explain what the class is doing. Attach a copy of the invitation their child created. Have the students hand deliver the invitations to the school member they invited.

As they plan their TrashMasters Museum, remind the students to be aware of practicing reducing, reusing, and recycling, like using scrap paper for drafts of the maps, promotional posters, and invitations.



Step 4:

With input from students, decide how you are going to prepare the museum space. For example, determine what each student will do to set up on the day before the Museum opens. Keep in mind that you will probably do a good amount of the setup, but your students can do many things to contribute.

As you make your plans, consider opening the TrashMasters Museum at the beginning of the day, and keeping it open to visitors for 45 – 60 minutes. The day before the actual event, talk with your students about what's expected of them during Museum hours: What will each student do? What will they wear? Who will be in charge of admissions? Will people rotate jobs, or will everyone have the same job throughout? Answer these questions with the students. Send a note or email home the night before with the final reminder of the TrashMasters Museum event.

Step 5:

Open your TrashMasters Museum to the public! It's important that you and the students enjoy the day's events, and that the students take pride in their work. Remember to lavish well-earned praise on all the students, especially in front of family members.

Step 6:

After the TrashMasters Museum closes, bring the class together to discuss a strategy for putting everything back to normal. Assign jobs to different groups of students and, when the work is finished, reward the entire class.

Expanded:

You can also produce the TrashMasters Museum on a much larger scale. For example, by inviting other teachers who are also using **RRR You Ready?** you can collaboratively plan a more extensive grade-wide or school-wide version of the TrashMasters Museum. You might want to hold this larger event in your gymnasium, all-purpose room, lunchroom, or outside on school grounds if the weather permits.

Another way to enhance your Museum is to have your students create sculptures using materials you've been studying. For example, a sculpture might be created from reusable materials. To prepare them for display, have each student title his or her sculpture, write about it, and explain the materials they chose for their sculpture.

To make your museum more interactive, students can create games out of waste items (such as checkers from bottle caps). With your guidance, students can make modern versions of simple games that were played with long ago, or invent a variety of games or toys that reinforce the concepts introduced in **RRR You Ready?**

Supplemental Learning Opportunities

Creating a TrashMasters Street Fair

Students can exhibit information and ideas about reducing, reusing, and recycling on an even larger scale by holding a TrashMasters Street Fair.

Your TrashMasters Street Fair can be an ambitious school-wide event that includes students and teachers from your school community. You can also include people, businesses, and organizations from the neighborhood. Or, it can be a simple, small, comfortable, and easily managed event. Your TrashMasters Street Fair can take place in the school auditorium or gym, on school grounds, or in your school's neighborhood.

A TrashMasters Street Fair can:

- Provide a celebratory function for the school and its community members.
- Give students a chance to share what they've learned about reducing, reusing, and recycling.
- Inform the community about issues associated with trash and recycling.
- Demonstrate specific how-to tips for reducing, reusing, and recycling.
- Encourage a commitment by individuals, families, and community members to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Who Can Participate

You can invite people outside the classroom to attend, as well as to help organize and publicize your Street Fair.

Here are some suggestions for people you may want to consider including:

- Students, teachers, and volunteers who may also be using the **RRR You Ready?** program
- Parent groups like PA/PTAs or other community parent groups
- Members of block associations, or community recycling or environmental organizations
- Members of City service organizations and clubs
- Local business owners
- Members of local churches, synagogues, and other religious organizations
- Local and state elected officials and representatives from other City agencies

Start the Planning Process

Begin by setting up a steering committee with a chairperson and subcommittees, if appropriate. Some subcommittees that you might want to include are: publicity and media, finances, information, site planning, neighborhood outreach, booths, speakers, student presentations, refreshments, event setup, and cleanup.

Be sure to choose the date and place for the Street Fair well in advance and to clear it with key players. Obtain any permits or licenses that may be needed.

Decide on the scope and size of your TrashMasters Street Fair:

- A large Street Fair can include booths, games, food, information, displays, presentations, and hands-on projects.
- A smaller Street Fair can include displays and information as part of an existing annual school or city function.
- Decide on a budget and investigate funding sources.

Step-by-Step Planning

- First, you and your students should consider which projects, displays, and Activities covered in **RRR You Ready?** you want to share. If other classes are involved, coordinate with other teachers to determine which classes will be in charge of specific activities or displays.
- Work with the Principal or person in charge of the premises to select your definite date. You'll need to complete any required permits or documents. Get all confirmations in writing. If you're holding it outside, consider arranging a rain date as a contingency.
- Carefully examine and measure the area you'll be using to hold your TrashMasters Street Fair. Look for details such as electrical outlets, water sources, traffic, access for loading and unloading displays or equipment, parking, and proximity to the street for picking up the trash and recyclables.
- Along with the other people working on the event, create a schedule of regular planning meetings to check on your group's progress.
- Plan publicity for the event, which can include sending notices home to families, an article in the school e-newsletter, a blog on the school website, news releases for local newspapers and publications, and radio publicity. Create a Facebook event and promote on other social media outlets; post your TrashMasters Street Fair on local online calendars of events.
- Enlist the help of volunteers for setup and cleanup. Don't forget to get labeled recycling bins, trash baskets, and a day's supply of clear bags. Ask for help from more people than you think you'll need, just in case some can't make it.
- You can even plan for on-site local newspaper, TV, or radio news coverage. If you do, have several students and teachers available to provide interviews or background on the event.



Displays and Activities

You can use any of the following ideas to help you design a TrashMasters Street Fair that works with your schedule and your school. Ask students for their own ideas, too!

- **How to Recycle Area.** Show examples of items properly sorted into Green and Blue bins.
- **Waste Toss Game.** Have visitors toss clean trash and recyclables into the appropriate categories — Blue bin, Green bin, or regular garbage. Give prizes to the winners.
- **Informational Posters.** Have students illustrate ways to reduce, reuse, or recycle.
- **Waste Reduction Display.** Create a display showing what steps the students have taken to decrease the amount of waste they create in their school and homes.
- **Student Stuff Exchange.** Set up areas for people to donate or swap used clothes, books, sports equipment, toys, or other items that they might otherwise throw away.
- **TrashMasters Contracts.** Plan an exhibit where the public can see examples of students' TrashMaster Contracts. Part of the exhibit can include an area for people to write their own contracts, which they can display or take with them.



- **Trash-Weighing Station.** Demonstrate how much trash Americans create each day.
- **Bulk Food Display.** Compare the amount of packaging needed for a large container versus several small containers that hold the same volume of product, such as cereal or detergent.
- **Packaging Displays.** Compare sensible, appropriate packaging with over-packaged products.
- **Anti-Litter Campaign.** Provide visual displays of useful information that the students researched and wrote themselves. Handout homemade signs for buildings to display, requesting “no menus, flyers, or ads”.
- **Letter Writing Campaign.** Provide mailing or e-mail addresses for legislators, industries, and other groups for people to send a message about specific issues related to waste prevention and recycling. Provide sample text that people can use as a guide.
- **Reusable Bag and Cloth Napkin Display.** The students can make and decorate a variety of examples to display and/or sell.
- **Papermaking Station.** Have students demonstrate that making paper is not only easy, it's fun and creative.
- **Plant Sale.** Have students sell plants they've grown from seeds, using compost they made in class. Plant seedlings in cut-down plastic bottles or milk cartons. The compost itself can also be sold in one-pound bags. Include a student-written sheet about how they made the compost, or how to care for the plant.
- **Landfill Exhibit.** Show what happens in a landfill by displaying the ones designed and built by students.
- **Recycling Stations:** Place recycling bins next to each trash basket, and arrange in advance for collection after the event. Assign someone to make sure bins are emptied and relined with clear bags throughout the event.
- **Guest Speakers or Performers.** Consider inviting people with particular areas of expertise to speak or conduct demonstrations.



Supplemental Learning Opportunities

Talking Trash at Home



You may be surprised at how much your family throws away every day. This Activity helps you guess how much, and helps you see what might not be trash at all.

Part 1 - How Much Do We Throw Away?

1. How many pounds of trash do you think your family throws away each day? _____ lbs
2. Using the chart below, ask each family member to write down everything that he or she can remember throwing away at school, work, and home today. Don't forget to write down your own name, too, so you can participate as well.

Make sure to include small things like paper napkins, soda cans, packaging, food leftovers, and office paper, as well as big things like broken toys and unwanted furniture. If you run out of space on the chart, you can use additional sheets of lined paper.

name	name	name	name
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

3. Once each family member has filled in the chart, ask them to estimate the total weight of everything they listed.

name	name	name	name
weight _____	weight _____	weight _____	weight _____

- 4. Add together the weights that each family member wrote down to see how much your family throws away each day.

My family throws away about _____ lbs. of trash each day.

- 5. Was it more or less than your estimate in question 1? By how much? _____oz, ____ lbs.

Part 2 - How Can We Reduce Waste?

- 1. Even if your family members are already very good at recycling, there may be some recyclable items on your lists. Circle any recyclable items — paper products, aluminum cans, soda bottles, glass etc. that your family members threw away today. For a more information on what items are recyclable in NYC, visit nyc.gov/recycle.

How many items did you circle? _____

- 2. Recycling isn't the way to only cut down on the amount of trash your family produces. Write down two items from the chart that could have been reused, repaired, or given away instead of thrown out.

1. _____

2. _____

- 3. Thinking about exactly what we throw away each day can help us change our habits. Draw a star (★) next to each food-related item on your family's lists.

How many ★s did you draw? _____

See if you and your family can write down three ways to reduce waste at meal times.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

- 4. What are three other ways that your family can reduce the amount that gets thrown away each day?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Supplemental Learning Opportunities

Supermarket Shopping Scavenger Hunt

This Activity is a fun way to examine what we buy and to explore how we might change some of our buying habits to help reduce or prevent waste. Go to a grocery store, department store, or bodega with your family and take a look at some of the items being sold. Pay attention to packaging, how long products last, and what gets thrown away. Work with your family to come up with ideas for substitute replacements for wasteful products.

Products that are **non-recyclable** (such as Styrofoam®):

Examples: _____

Substitutes: _____

Products that can be **reused** (such as glass jars):

Examples: _____

How reused: _____

Products that are **overpackaged** (such as multiple wrappings):

Examples: _____

Substitutes: _____

Products that are **disposable** (made to be used once and then thrown away):

Examples: _____

Substitutes: _____

Products that we buy because **advertisements make them appealing**:

Examples: _____

Substitutes: _____

Supplemental Learning Opportunities

Keep On Unwrapping

In this Activity, you will take a closer look at the groceries that your family buys and the packaging that they come in. Take a few moments before you put everything away and try this together:

1. Place the full grocery bags on a table or counter.
2. Take each item out and examine how it is packaged. For example, you might have cereal in boxes, fruit on plastic-wrapped trays, and other items in plastic and paper bags or waxed paper cartons.
3. Write down four items with appropriate packaging (just enough packaging to keep the product safe and clean).

Item: _____ Wrapping: _____

Item: _____ Wrapping: _____

Item: _____ Wrapping: _____

Item: _____ Wrapping: _____

4. Write down four items that are overpackaged (additional wrappings that are not really needed to protect the product).

Item: _____ Wrapping: _____

Overpackaged because: _____

5. Which wrappings are recyclable?

If you are not sure if something can be recycled, you can find out by visiting nyc.gov/recycle.

6. Some wrappings can be reused instead of recycled. Write down ways that you could reuse three different types of packaging:

Package: _____

Reuse: _____

Package: _____

Reuse: _____

Package: _____

Reuse: _____

7. Write down three ways that manufacturers can reduce waste when packaging their products

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

The next time you go shopping, remember what you discovered by doing this Activity. When possible, consider buying products in bulk, or that come in containers that can be reused or recycled.

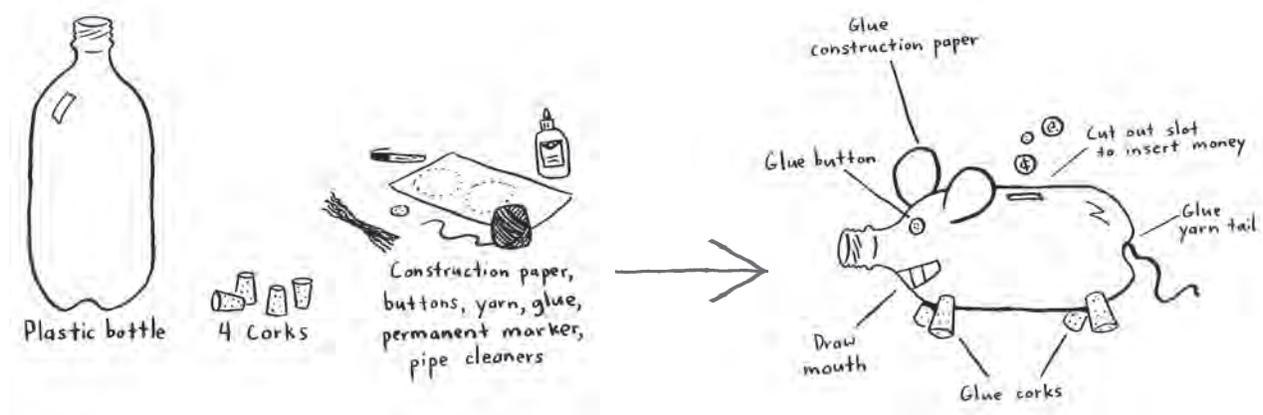
Supplemental Learning Opportunities

From Trash to Cash

Create your own Savings Bank from recycled materials. You can make the piggy bank shown here, or design your own fun animal or creature. This Activity will help you save money and learn about reducing, reusing, and recycling.

Part 1 - How to Start Saving

1. To make your bank, start with a clean plastic container with an opening large enough to allow a quarter to easily pass through, so you can get your money out later.
2. Use the bottle cap as a nose.
3. Use buttons for the eyes and draw a mouth with permanent marker. Make ears using construction paper and glue them on.
4. Use a coiled pipe cleaner, yarn, or string to make a tail. Poke a small hole in the bottle and insert the tail. Use a little glue, if needed, to keep it in place.
5. For feet, glue corks or plastic bottle caps to the bottle.
6. To make a coin slot, cut a slit that's large enough for money to fit through. Your bank is now ready for deposits.



Part 2 - Smart Saving and Smart Spending

Now that you have a brand new reused bottle bank, it is time to start thinking of how you can save money and save the environment at the same time.

1. Don't throw your money away! There are many ways that you can reduce spending while reducing waste. Some examples are:



- Drinking from a reusable water bottle instead of buying bottled water, juice, or soda.
- Using both sides of each page in your notebooks so that they last longer.
- Trading toys and games with friends instead of buying brand new ones.

Can you think of three more examples?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

2. Think about ways that you can use the money that you collect in your bank to help the environment.

- You can make a donation to an organization that supports waste reduction, reuse, or recycling.
- Even if you don't want to donate the money you collect, you can reduce waste by spending your money on second-hand items instead of new ones. Many stores sell second-hand musical instruments, video games, clothing, and other items that work just as well as new ones, but cost much less.

Talk to your family and write down three ways that you can spend or donate the money you collect to make a difference.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

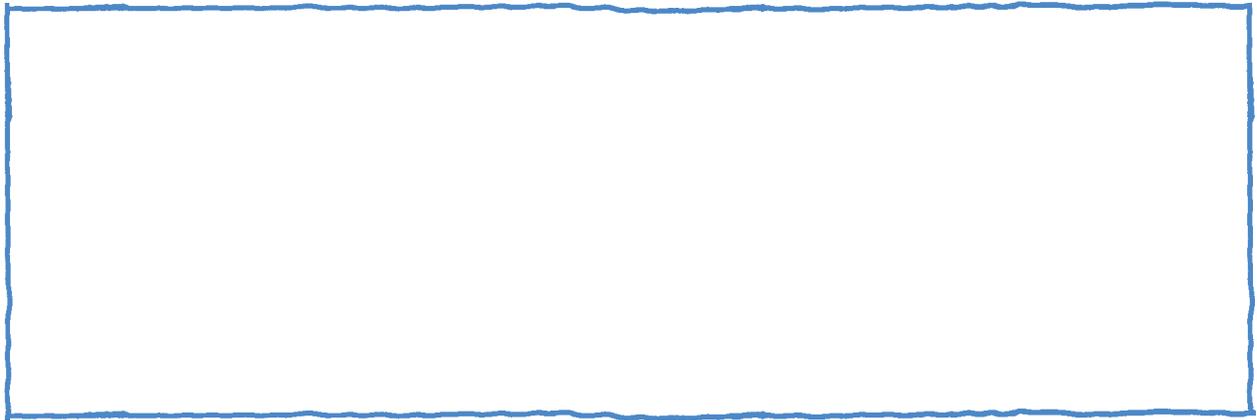
Supplemental Learning Opportunities

Toys Through the Generations

Part 1 - Today's Toys

Think about the toys that you play with most often and answer the following questions. If you no longer play with toys very often, then describe toys that younger family members play with or that you played with when you were younger.

1. Choose one of your toys and draw a detailed picture of it in the box below.



2. What materials or resources were used to make the toy?

3. How long have you used it?

4. How much longer will you use the toy before throwing it away? Or, will you keep it or give it away?

5. How could the toy have been designed differently to last longer?

Part 2 - Toys From the Past

Interview your grandparents or other people from an older generation about the toys that they had when they were your age. Ask them the following questions:

1. How many toys did you have as a child?

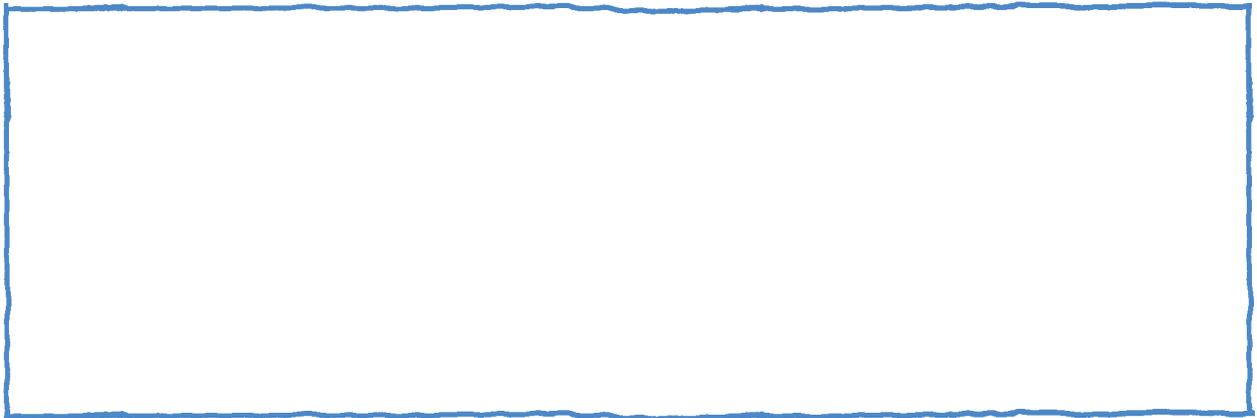
2. What were your favorite toys?

3. What were your toys made of?

4. How long did your toys last?

5. Could they be fixed if they were broken?

6. Draw a detailed picture of one of the toys described by the person you are interviewing.



7. What are some differences between today's toys and the toys that the person you interviewed played with as a child?

Supplemental Learning Opportunities

Trash and RRR at Home

Waste can happen when people do not think about different ways to reuse and recycle unwanted items. In this Activity, you will take a close look at what is in your family's trash can, and help them think about alternatives.

1. Reduce, Reuse. Before your family takes out the trash, put some gloves on and look through what is being thrown away.

- **In space one** on the back of this page, make a small poster that shows at least three items from your trash that could be reused or recycled instead of thrown away. Label each item and write down how it can be reused or recycled.

This poster can be cut out and displayed on your refrigerator to remind family members to reduce, reuse, and recycle. If you have access to a photocopy machine, you can even make copies of it, color them in, and tape them to each wastebasket in your house.

2. Recycle. Make sure you have three places for waste in your home: one for garbage; one for metal, glass, and plastic recyclables; and one for mixed paper. See nyc.gov/recycle to learn what to recycle in New York City.

- **In space two** on the back of this page, make a sign that you can hang in the place where you put your bottle and can recyclables.
- **In space three**, make a sign that to hang in the place where your family puts mixed paper for recycling.

Don't forget to illustrate your signs and make them colorful so they can't be missed.

3. Assign one family member each week to be the Home Waste Monitor, checking all garbage and recycling containers to make sure everything has been put in the right place.

4. After doing this for four weeks, make a new poster showing ways that your family has reduced, reused, and recycled.



These Items Can Be Reused or Recycled!

Draw at least three items from your trash that could be reused or recycled instead of thrown away.



Make a sign to hang in the place where you put your metal, glass, and plastic recyclables.



Make a sign to hang in the place where you put your mixed paper recyclables.

Supplemental Learning Opportunities

Brainstorm and Bag It!

Stores give away thousands of paper and plastic bags each year. Bringing your own reusable bags lets you say “**No Thanks**” to unneeded packaging.

Part 1 - Observation

Go to a bodega or grocery store and observe what happens as people purchase items.

- 1. Write down how many bags are given to the customer at the front of the line. _____
 - 2. Does the store double bag? _____
 - 3. Does the store fill each bag to the top? _____
 - 4. How could the store have used fewer bags? _____
-

Part 2 - Action

- 1. When you shop, make sure to bring your own backpack or reusable bag.
 - 2. When you make a purchase, ask the person working at the cash register how many bags you would have been given you if you had not brought your own. Next ask the sales clerk how many bags he or she gives out each day. Write down his or her response.
- _____
- _____
-

Part 3 - Brainstorming Bag Reduction

Try with your family various ways you can reduce the number of plastic and/or paper bags, and other unneeded items that are given to you when you shop.

- 1. Bring bags or a backpack with you every time you go shopping.
 - 2. Ask all family members to experiment by saying “no bag, thanks” when a bag isn’t necessary.
 - 3. Reuse plastic bags and keep a record of how many times you’ve “saved” a bag by not using a new one.
 - 4. Work with your family to think of ways to use fewer paper and plastic bags when you shop. Write your ideas on the lines below.
- _____
- _____
-

Supplemental Learning Opportunities

Fast Food Throwaways

Fast food and takeout restaurants are a popular convenience. However, they use a lot of packaging and disposable items that almost immediately go into the trash. When you go to a fast food or takeout restaurant, think about ways to reduce waste.

-
1. Go to a fast food or take-out restaurant and write down all of the non-food items given to each customer.

2. What materials were used to make the items listed above?

3. Were any of the items made from recycled products?

4. What items could be reused?

5. What items could be recycled?

6. When you order anything, make sure to say, “No bag, please; and please DON’T give me...” for any condiments or non-food items that you don’t need. Write down the response you get from the restaurant. Were you still given any items that you did not need?

Make sure to get the food you want without all of the extra stuff, every time you order fast food or takeout!

Supplemental Learning Opportunities

Family RRR Contest

The challenges on this sheet will help you and your family think of new ways to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle!

Challenge #1 - Who can produce the least amount of trash for one week?

Which family members are participating in this challenge?

How will you judge who has been the most successful?

Challenge #2 - Who can reuse a particular item the longest before throwing it out?

What items did your family members choose to reuse?

How will you judge who has been the most successful in this challenge?

Challenge #3 - Who has the cleverest idea for reusing an item? Let the family vote to decide.

What ideas did your family members come up with?

Which idea did your family vote for? What were other good or creative ideas?

Challenge #4 - Who can most successfully use scrap paper instead of clean paper for one week?

To get started, list three activities when scrap paper could be used instead of new paper.

How will you judge who has been the most successful in this challenge?

Challenge #5 - Who can think of the most creative ways to reduce family trash?

Name _____

Ideas _____

Name _____

Ideas _____

Name _____

Ideas _____

Name _____

Ideas _____

Which of the ideas listed above do you think will be interesting to try?

Which of the ideas do you think your family will be able to keep doing for a long time?

RRR is about the small changes that can have a big impact on the amount of waste we produce. Keep thinking of new challenges and keep up the good work!

Supplemental Learning Opportunities

How I Can Be a TrashMaster at Home

Being a TrashMaster means thinking about the environment every time you buy, use, or get rid of a product. If you reduce, reuse, and recycle, you can have a big impact on the amount of trash created in New York.



Follow these instructions and check the appropriate boxes on the list of RRR tips below (it is okay to check more than one box):

Reduce means cutting down on waste before it is created. If a tip shows you how to reduce waste by cutting down on the number products that need to be produced, check the Reduce box.

Reuse means making the most out of every object before you throw it away. If a tip shows you how to reduce waste by reusing products, check the Reuse box.

Recycle means making sure that the materials are collected separately to make into new products. If a tip helps remind you to recycle, check the Recycle box.

Check the appropriate box or boxes for each tip	Reduce	Reuse	Recycle
Use discarded paper as scrap paper for notes.			
Make double-sided copies and printouts.			
Bring your own water bottle instead of buying drinks.			
Make sure you have three places for waste in your home: one for garbage; one for metal, glass, plastic, and carton recyclables; and one for mixed paper recyclables.			
Wrap your sandwiches in foil instead of plastic bags. (Plastic bags are discarded as trash.)			
Use a ceramic plate turned upside down to cover food in the microwave, instead of plastic wrap or paper towels.			
Bring your own shopping bag to the store.			

Check the appropriate box or boxes for each tip	Reduce	Reuse	Recycle
Return wire hangers and plastic bags to the dry cleaners.			
Buy brands with sensible packaging. Avoid overpackaged items when possible, such as vegetables or fruit that are packaged in several layers of plastic wrap.			
Buy eggs in cardboard or clear plastic egg cartons instead of polystyrene foam (which should be discarded as trash).			
Say “ NO ” to items you’re not going to use, such as extra napkins, straws, bags, or packages of condiments. If you don’t need them, leave them.			
If your family uses a lot of paper towels, suggest that they use sponges and rags, instead.			
Hold a school-wide fundraiser to collect cans and bottles, and redeem them for the deposits.			
Buy products that are built to last, such as refillable pens and pencils, razors with replaceable blades, and batteries that can be recharged.			
Create a local stuff exchange at school to trade items that you no longer want.			
Teach your friends and family how to recycle and which items go in each bin.			

Now think of five tips of your own!

How do you RRR?	Reduce	Reuse	Recycle

Which box did you check most often? _____