



## Post-Visit Lesson: *Recycling at Home and School*

### Lesson Overview

Conduct this post-visit lesson after the *Too Good to Throw Away!* classroom presentation. Students review what can be recycled in Tucson, create recycling mini-posters to share with their families, and discuss ways to reduce the amount of trash they create.

### Arizona Department of Education Academic Standards

Please refer to the Arizona Department of Education Academic Standards file for the ADE standards addressed by this lesson.

### Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- identify and list what can be recycled in Tucson.
- list several items that cannot be recycled in Tucson and describe alternative choices for what to do with them.
- discuss ways to organize home and school recycling centers.

### Materials

- Optional: Pictures and/or samples of recyclables and contamination items
- Chalkboard or whiteboard
- Paper
- Crayons/colored pencils/markers

### Procedure (*estimated time one hour*)

**1. Tucson's Recyclables** (Optional: Enhance the discussion using pictures and/or samples where appropriate; students can even contribute their own samples from lunch or from home.)

- Ask students what the main categories of recyclables are in Tucson and list on the board (paper, metal, glass, plastic).
- Ask students to provide examples and list under the appropriate categories on the board.
- Ask students to provide examples of items that contaminate the recycling bin, and to provide alternative solutions.

## Post-Visit Lesson: *Recycling at Home and School* *(continued)*

### 2. Recycling at Home

- Remind students that recycling is something they can do now - they don't need to wait to be grown-ups! By recycling, students will help save natural resources and space in the landfill.
- Ask students:
  - *What can you do at home to make recycling easy and fun for the whole family?*
  - *How can you help your family to remember what can be recycled?*
- Students use paper and crayons/colored pencils/markers to create mini-posters incorporating the main recyclable categories and the items listed on the board. Students should take their posters home to place near their family's recycling bin

### 3. Recycling at School

- Ask students: *What might we do to reduce the amount of trash we produce?* As students brainstorm, write their ideas on the board. (For example: using both sides of a piece of paper, buying only what we need, looking for products with the least amount of packaging, buying recycled products, giving books/toys/clothes we no longer need to charity or friends, recycling more at home or school, using reusable lunch containers if bringing lunch from home.)
- Discuss which ideas the students think they could easily do at school.
- Take concrete steps to set a few strategies in motion. (For example: If "use back of old homework for scratch paper" is listed, set up a basket or box for the class to collect paper that is clean on one side; if "create a classroom recycling program" is listed, set up an appropriate container and collection schedule.) Keep it simple and make it FUN!

### Extension Ideas:

- Have students cut out pictures of recyclable materials from newspapers and magazines and paste them onto their mini-posters.
- Sign up for the national school recycling competition at <http://recycle-bowl.org> and enter to win prizes for your school.
- Have students create crafts projects with reusable materials. Enter student projects in the annual RUMBA (Re-Used Materials Becoming Art) Contest sponsored by Tucson Clean and Beautiful. For more information, visit [bit.ly/rumbarecycling](http://bit.ly/rumbarecycling), or contact (520) 791-5000 or [recycle@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:recycle@tucsonaz.gov).