



RECYCLE TODAY!





In recent years, the so-called "garbage crisis" has grabbed the attention of the nation and the world. Overloaded and closing landfills and barges laden with trash graphically illustrate the problems created by a "throwaway" society. Faced with ever-increasing amounts of garbage and no place to put it all, more and more Americans are recognizing the need for action.

Young people can play an especially important role in solving the garbage gluts of today-and tomorrow. School teachers and administrators are in a unique position to help students fulfill this role. With the proper tools, educators can help students respect the environment, become aware of their impact upon it, and develop positive attitudes and behaviors. In many instances, young people can change their parents' habits, too.

Recycle Today! provides a varied, entertaining, and informative way for educators to teach young people about recycling and other solid waste issues. This comprehensive educational program, developed by the Office of Solid Waste, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in partnership with national educational associations, aims to raise students' environmental awareness through classroom activities and hands-on recycling projects. Although it focuses on solid waste, Recycle Today! incorporates broader sociological, economic, and scientific information about the world we live in. What students learn goes beyond the classroom, since the program emphasizes how they can make changes in their daily habits and throughout their lives.

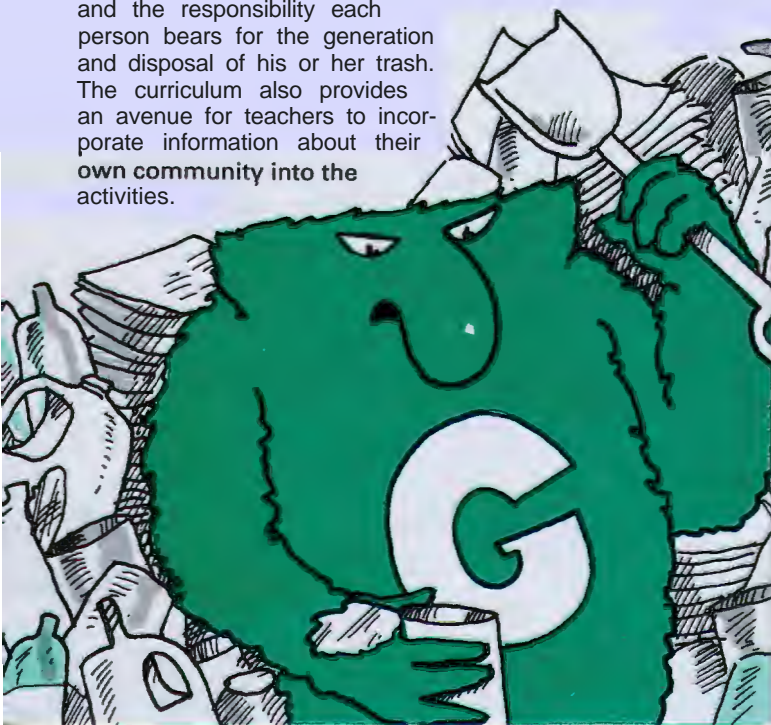
Recycle Today! consists of four publications that focus on the importance of recycling, and how it can have an impact on trash management and the environment. These publications make it easy for teachers to introduce recycling into their classroom by providing lesson plans, resource materials, and practical projects for students to work on at school and at home. To allow for maximum teacher flexibility, the publications may be used individually, or as a package.

The "Garbage Gremlin," which appears throughout Recycle Today!, represents the wasteful habits many of us unknowingly perpetuate. Students are encouraged to recognize and reject the ways of the "Gremlin" as they learn how to be responsible, environmentally conscious citizens.





Let's Recycle: A Curriculum for Solid Waste Awareness presents lessons and activities to teach students in grades K-12 about solid waste generation and management. The bulk of the curriculum is composed of logically ordered, highly interactive activities for students at school and beyond. Each unit presents a series of related lessons with vocabulary words, discussion questions, and projects. Practical teaching aids, such as handouts, worksheets, clip art, and a short skit are also included, along with a glossary and bibliography of additional sources of information. The curriculum covers such issues as the value of natural resources, the importance of recycling, and the responsibility each person bears for the generation and disposal of his or her trash. The curriculum also provides an avenue for teachers to incorporate information about their **own community into the activities.**



Objective:
To introduce the concept of
renewable versus nonrenewable
natural resources.

Vocabulary: renewable
petroleum

collection of items that would
should include examples of
be renewed (or recreated).

students to examine these produc
om. In the discussion, point o
renewable resources, and, as such
ement system. Help students
e they are the result of geologi
materials are in limited supply

and cardboard come from the
at a faster rate than it can be p
ssion, students should be able
able and nonrenewable resour

Aluminum cans, from bau
Tin-plated steel cans, from

Glass bottles, from sand,
plentiful supply)

Paper, from wood (renew

Cardboard, from wood (

Organic waste, such as

Plastic containers or ba

renewable aluminum

UNIT FIVE What Can We Do About Waste?

7-12



Objective:
To introduce student
concept of natural
how they can be di

Vocabulary: natural cycle nutrient
carbon dioxide greenho

Ask students to describe what is meant by a cycle: in natural
cycles from students and write them on the board. Disc
with students.

Nutrient Cycle

1. Plants take up nutrients from soil to make
2. Animals eat plants and return nutrients to soil
3. Plants and animals die and decay, return nutrients to the soil.

Oxygen Cycle

1. Plants give off oxygen as a waste product
2. Animals take in oxygen for respiration.
3. Animals exhale carbon dioxide (CO₂)
4. Plants use CO₂ for photosynthesis.

Water Cycle

1. Sun evaporates water from oceans and
2. Cooled water vapor forms clouds.
3. Clouds release water as rain.
4. Plants and animals use water.
5. Water not used runs into lakes and oceans

UNIT ONE What Is Waste?

K-6



Objective:
To define waste and
discuss where it comes from.

Vocabulary: waste
landfill
garbage

To lead into this activity, initiate a discussion based on the following questions:

- Q Who knows what waste or garbage is?
- Q What are some other names we have for waste?
- Q Where do we put our classroom waste?

Have children cut out pictures from magazines of things that could be thrown out when they
are used up or no longer needed and create a montage. You may want to have the entire
class create one giant montage.

Then discuss with children where all of this trash might go:

- Q What happens to our waste when it leaves the school?
- Q What kinds of waste do we throw away at home? (Write)
- Q Where does it go?

GRADE LEVEL

The curriculum is
divided into two
major sections: one
for grades
kindergarten through
6, and one for grades
7 through 12.

OBJECTIVE

An objective clearly
defines the purpose
of each activity.

VOCABULARY

New vocabulary is
introduced at the
beginning of many
activities and is
glossary.n a glossary.

ACTIVITIES

Activities are
designed to give
teachers maximum
flexibility and
encourage active
student participation
through discussions,
projects, and a
variety of other
formats.

Skills Taught in the Curriculum

Language Skills

- Creative writing
- Vocabulary
- Public speaking and debating
- Research and library skills

Science and Math Skills

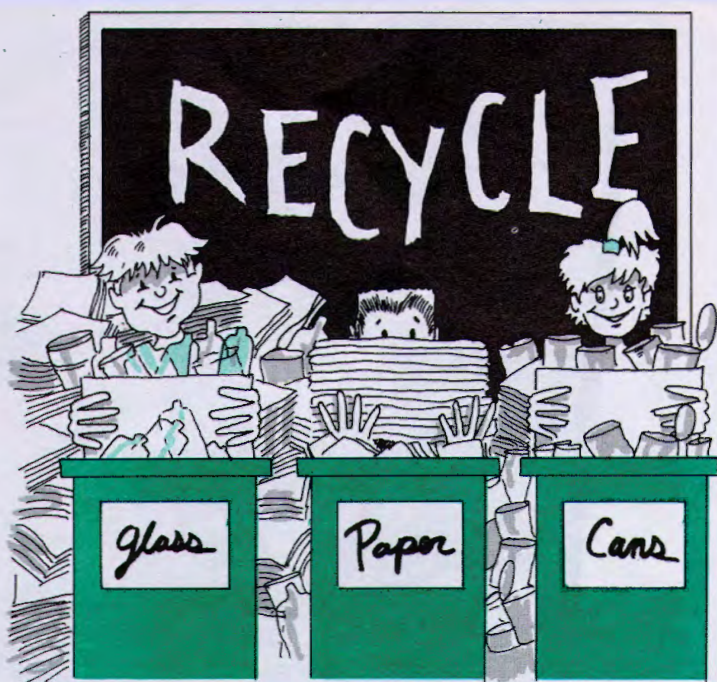
- Laboratory safety and procedures
- Earth science
- Problem-solving
- Statistics
- Units of measurement
- Percentages

Arts Skills

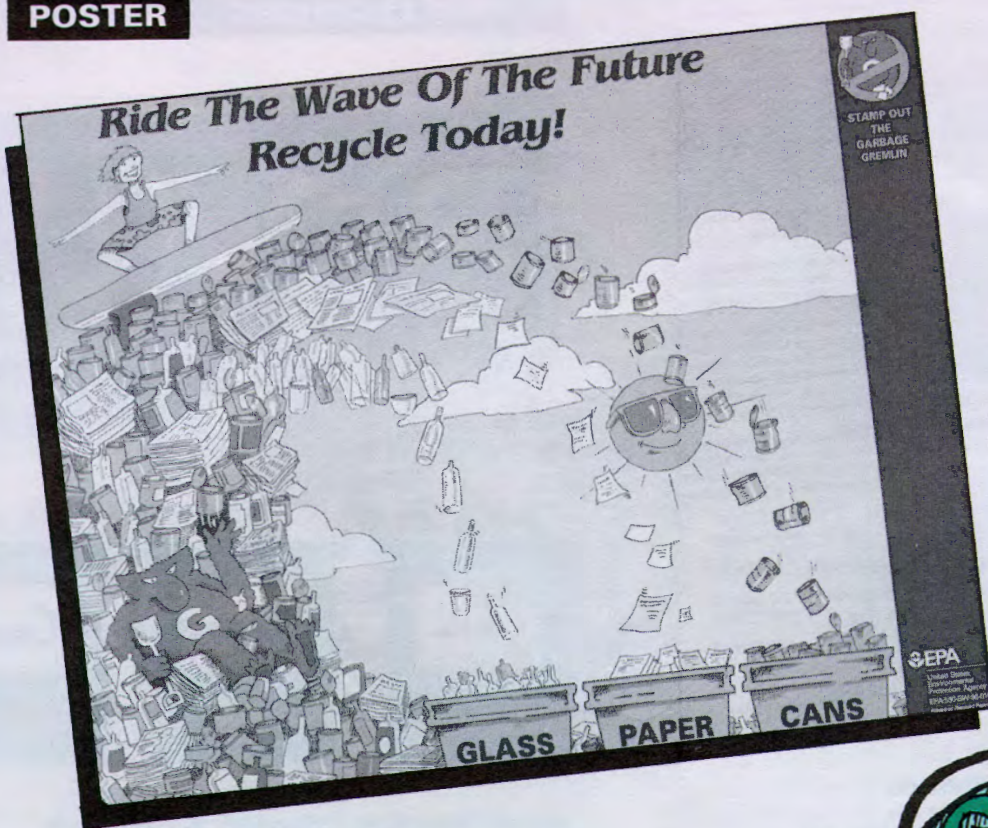
- Arts and crafts
- Audiovisual skills
- Dramatic arts

Social Studies Skills

- Population dynamics
- Geography
- Natural resource use
- Good citizenship/Community service
- Environmental health awareness



School Recycling Programs: A Handbook for Educators describes a number of school recycling program options, along with step-by-step instructions on how to set up a program. The handbook focuses on implementing actual recycling projects, and highlights several success stories from around the country. It also introduces the President's Environmental Youth Awards, a national program that recognizes outstanding efforts of young people to protect the environment. Since school recycling programs are excellent candidates for the President's Environmental Youth Awards, the handbook provides instructions on how schools can apply to this program. The handbook also identifies sources for more information and additional related publications.



Ride the Wave of the Future: Recycle Today!

promotes recycling through a colorful poster designed to appeal to all grade levels. A joint effort between EPA and the National Science Teachers Association, the poster appeared in the *The Science Teacher* and can be displayed in conjunction with recycling activities or used to help foster recycling.

COMIC BOOK FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 4-7

Adventures of the Garbage Gremlin: Recycle and Combat a Life of Grime

introduces students in grades 4-7 to the benefits of recycling through an engaging comic book approach. Students are led on a lively adventure where they encounter the problems associated with garbage and watch their peers foil a scheme of the "Garbage Gremlin" to make their school his new home. The comic book describes the recycling process in a thorough yet entertaining way that speaks to students directly and encourages them to assess their present attitudes and behaviors.



Recycle Today! was developed with participation from the following national education associations:

- National Association of Biology Teachers
- American Federation of Teachers
- National Science Teachers Association
- Council for American Private Education
- National Parent-Teacher Association

How to Obtain these Publications

To order these publications at no cost from EPA, fill in the coupon below and send it to: The RCRA Information Center (OS-305), US. EPA, 401 M Street SW, Washington DC 20460.

Please Send:

- ☐ **Curriculum** (EPA/530-SW-90-005)
- ☐ **How-to Handbook** (EPA/SW-90-023)
- ☐ **Comic Book** (EPA/530-SW-90-024)
- ☐ **Poster** (EPA/530-SW-90-010)

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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