



Be in the know!

The Skagit County Solid Waste Division has an online newsletter. If your family is interested in receiving monthly tips on reducing waste, up-to-date facts about recycling and composting, and event announcements and highlights from our area, this newsletter is what you need. To sign up, visit our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/skagitmcr, click on “The Rotting Times Newsletter,” and then follow the on-screen directions.

What’s in your garbage?

In November, seventh and eighth graders at Bayview Elementary School conducted an audit of their school lunch waste. The students organized the event and made surprising discoveries. They were shocked to find that only 7.6% of the lunchroom waste was actual garbage that had nowhere to go other than the landfill. Most of the garbage, 53%, was wasted food that could have been composted. The students even found a good portion was whole food, such as fruit with no bite marks and unopened packages, meaning this was food that could have been eaten by someone else who was hungry. Based on the results of the waste audit, Bayview School is kicking off a cafeteria composting and recycling program this spring.

During a waste audit, the school custodial staff sets aside all of the garbage from one full day of school or from one area, such as school lunchroom waste. Students then set up tables and, wearing aprons and gloves, sort the garbage into recyclables, compostables, and actual trash. Then they weigh each group to collect data that will show them how much is going to waste and how

they can increase recycling and composting and decrease garbage. For more information about how your school can do a waste audit, please contact Callie Martin at calliem@co.skagit.wa.us or call (360) 424-7817, ext. 208.



Bayview School's 8th grade service learning class found all of this uneaten food while sorting garbage — they were very surprised to find whole sandwiches still in bags and unopened drinks.

Protecting our planet

Here are some things that you and your family can do to improve our planet and reduce pollution:

- Reduce the amount of waste you create by buying less. If you have something that works, don't replace it. When you do need something, look for a recycled-content product or a gently used item.
- Reuse what you have by finding new uses for your stuff. Or, trade something you have with a friend — you'll both have something "new to you"!
- Recycle at school and at home. If you go on a spring break trip, be sure to look for recycling containers at rest areas, in airports, and where you are staying.
- Give up bottled water and switch to a washable, refillable water bottle. Not only does this reduce waste, but it also saves your family money because tap water is a lot cheaper than bottled water.
- Don't forget that electronics can be recycled. Computers, printers, TVs, DVD players, cell phones, and iPods/MP3 players don't belong in the trash. Find old electronics that you no longer use and "e-cycle" them. Learn more at www.ecyclewashington.org.
- Compost your yard waste and fruit and vegetable scraps in a backyard bin to create an Earth friendly fertilizer. Not sure how to start? Join us for a "Home Composting 101" workshop this year. All clinics are FREE and open to the public — including youth accompanied by an adult. If you or your parents have questions, call (360) 424-7817, ext. 208, or visit www.skagitcounty.net/recycle and click on "Composting."
- Take the bus or carpool to school to save fuel and reduce air pollution. Carpool to sports practices, scouts, and other activities, too.
- Talk to your family about replacing burned-out light bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps (the "twisty" ones, known as CFLs) or LEDs. These bulbs use less energy and last much longer. Remember that burned-out CFLs can't go in the trash. Visit www.lightrecyclewa.org to find out where to dispose of them properly.
- Invite the Skagit County Solid Waste Division to visit your classroom or club. We make presentations on recycling, composting, reducing waste, smart shopping, and more. Please ask your teacher, scout leader, or club sponsor to contact Callie Martin at (360) 424-7817, ext. 208, to schedule a visit.

On Monday, April 17, the Board of Commissioners will make its annual Earth Day Proclamation. They will honor environmental groups from our area and schools that have made a difference by reducing waste. The proclamation will also offer tips to help you and your family make greener choices all year long. To watch the Earth Day Proclamation announcement, watch live on Comcast Channel 21 or online at <http://skagitcounty.net/Departments/TV21>.



E-CYCLE
washington

Food scraps don't belong in the trash can!

If you have yard waste/green cart service through your local city, composting food scraps from home is easy. If you don't have a yard waste cart, ask your parents to contact your city to find out whether this service is available to your family. Once you have a cart, here are four simple steps to get started composting at home:

1. Use a collection method that works for your family by placing a container like one of these under the sink or on the countertop:
 - ✓ Colander or strainer
 - ✓ Paper grocery bag inside a small bucket or container
 - ✓ Reusable plastic, metal, or ceramic container with a lid
 - ✓ Newspaper inside a small bucket or container
 - ✓ Approved compostable bag (www.gogreenscene.com)
2. Empty your container into the food/yard waste cart frequently.
3. Layer food scraps with yard waste, newspaper, or shredded paper to absorb liquids.
4. Compost ALL food scraps in your food/yard waste cart, including bones, meat, grains, veggies, cheeses, and fruits, plus paper napkins, paper towels, and waxed paper products.



You can be a Super Recycler!

The more you know about recycling and the more you practice doing it, the better you get! Once you know the facts and practice what you learn, you may become the go-to person for family members and friends who have recycling questions. That will make you a Super Recycler! Here are the things you need to know:

What can I recycle?

These recyclables are accepted in all curbside programs and at the five drop-off locations. Some programs and locations accept more items. Check with your recycler for a complete list.

- ▲ Drink cans
- ▲ Steel cans, including food, soup, pet food, and “tin” cans
- ▲ Small scraps of metal (no more than 2' by 2' by 2' and 35 pounds)
- ▲ Plastic bottles, jugs, tubs, and cups
- ▲ Glass bottles and jars
- ▲ Newspapers, magazines, and catalogs
- ▲ Paperback books and phone books
- ▲ School papers, printer/copier paper, and mail
- ▲ Paperboard, such as empty cereal and gift boxes
- ▲ Corrugated cardboard, such as shipping boxes



When and where do I recycle?

In the cities of Anacortes, Burlington, La Conner, Mount Vernon, and Sedro-Woolley and all areas west of Highway 9, residents can recycle at the curb with Waste Management. Other residents can use these drop-off recycling sites:

- ◆ Skagit County Recycling & Transfer Station, 14104 Ovenell Road, Mount Vernon — Open every day, 8:30 a.m.–6 p.m. (closed holidays)
- ◆ Clear Lake Compactor, 23159 Howey Road, Clear Lake — Mon., Fri., Sat., and Sun., 8 a.m.–6 p.m. (closed holidays)
- ◆ Sauk Transfer Site, 50795 State Route 20, Concrete — Thurs., Fri., Sat., and Sun., 9 a.m.–5 p.m. (closed holidays)
- ◆ Sedro-Woolley Recycling Facility, 315 Sterling Street — Mon.–Sat., 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
- ◆ Skagit River Steel & Recycling, 1265 S. Anacortes Street, Burlington — Mon.–Fri., 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

How do I prepare my recyclables?

First, empty and rinse food and drink containers. Turn them upside down and let them drip dry before putting them into your cart or bin. Make sure your paper products are clean, and break down and flatten boxes.

The most important thing is to recycle the right items — and to keep the wrong items out of the bins and carts! In Skagit County, please do NOT put any of these items into recycling bins: plastic utensils, Styrofoam of any kind, empty motor oil jugs, container lids, prescription medicine bottles, shredded paper, aluminum foil, expired medications, and sharps. If you have a plastic item that isn't either a bottle, jug, cup, or tub, it goes into the trash.

Contaminated recyclables may have to be thrown away instead of being turned into new products. As the saying goes, one bad apple can spoil the whole bunch! That's why it is important to leave out non-recyclable materials.

Why should I recycle?

Recycling keeps usable natural resources out of landfills. Making new products from recyclables uses less energy, creates less pollution, and helps create jobs.



For more information, call (360) 424-7817, ext. 208, or visit www.skagitcounty.net/recycle.

BEGINNINGS & ENDINGS

Add a prefix and/or suffix to each word and then put the word into the correct sentence below. (Hint: Sometimes you need to drop the "e" when adding a suffix.)



___pose response___ ___correct
ease___ ___cycle___

dis
iet
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re
d in

RECYCLE
↓

1. Look for notebook paper with _____ content.
2. We are all _____ for making our world a cleaner and healthier place to live!
3. _____ of used paper towels in the trash, but recycle the tube when the roll is empty.
4. Make it _____ for your family to recycle by putting a recycling bin right next to the trash can.
5. Dominick kept finding recyclables in the _____ bin at his school, so he created a sign to show which items went into the recycling bin and which didn't.



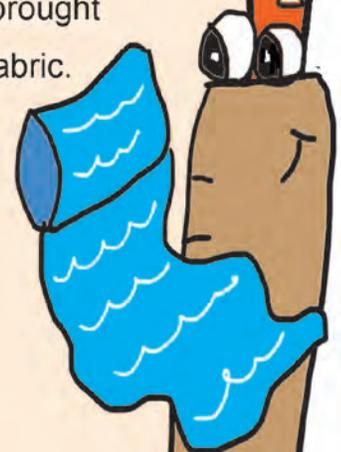
FRACTION ACTION

Miss Spinner's class is creating an Earth Day quilt. Jaylen brought $\frac{1}{2}$ yard of yellow fabric. Baylor brought $\frac{3}{4}$ yard of green fabric. Madison brought $2\frac{1}{3}$ yards of blue fabric.

How many total yards of fabric did the students bring to school?

If the quilt requires $3\frac{1}{2}$ yards of fabric, how much will be left over?

If $\frac{5}{8}$ yard of yellow fabric is needed, did Jaylen bring enough yellow fabric?



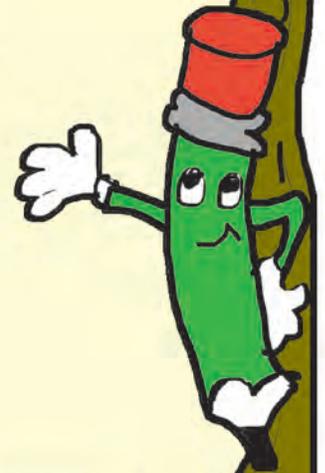
Scrambled Science

Unscramble the words below, and then use one to complete each sentence.

- _____ esrroucse
- _____ nergey
- _____ ufaumacntre
- _____ ethasvrde
- _____ ininmg
- _____ owrep



1. Natural _____ are materials taken from nature to create energy and products used by people.
2. Energy is used to _____ our houses, cars, appliances, and electronics.
3. Some natural resources are acquired by _____, which requires removing them from the earth.
4. Other natural resources, such as wood and bamboo, are _____.
5. Recyclables can replace natural resources in the _____ of new products.
6. Using recyclables to create new products requires less _____ than using natural resources.



STEP BY STEP

Abrianna decided to write down the steps for recycling paper, aluminum, and plastic, but she needs your help figuring out the correct order. Read the steps below and then number them 1 through 5 in the order they should occur.

Paper

- _____ Pulp is fed through large rollers to remove water and make the new paper smooth.
- _____ A machine chops the old paper into small pieces and water is added to create pulp.
- _____ The pulp is put on screens to filter out any large or unwanted pieces.
- _____ Finished paper is wound into large rolls.
- _____ The pulp is washed and cleaned and then turned into a slush or slurry.

Aluminum

- _____ Melted aluminum is formed into large blocks, called ingots.
- _____ The aluminum is shaped into new aluminum cans and products.
- _____ Used aluminum is sorted and cleaned.
- _____ The aluminum ingots are rolled out into long, flexible sheets.
- _____ The aluminum is melted down.

Plastic

- _____ The pellets are mixed with dyes and formed into new bottles and other products.
- _____ The plastic flake is washed and cleaned.
- _____ The plastic is shredded into small pieces, or flakes.
- _____ The melted plastic is made into pellets.
- _____ Shredded plastic is melted so that it can be reshaped.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Steel is one of the most recycled materials around the world, yet crude steel, or new steel that is not made from recycled materials, is still made every year. Using the clues below, figure out which country produced the most crude steel in 2015 at 803,825 thousand metric tons and then color it on this map.



Clues:

1. Though not an island, I touch the Pacific Ocean.
2. In land area, I am one of the largest countries in Asia.
3. You might recognize my flag, which is red and has one large and four small gold stars.
4. I am south of Mongolia and east of Afghanistan.

Reuse Ideas

Math

- What is the common denominator of $5/8$ and $7/12$?
- Solve these problems:
 $3/4 + 1/2 = \underline{\quad}$
 $3/4 - 1/3 = \underline{\quad}$
- Write $3 \frac{7}{12}$ in word form.
- If 20 students each bring in $1/3$ yard of fabric, how much fabric will the class have?
- Write 803,825 in expanded form.
- Round 803,825 to the thousands place.

English/Language Arts

- Based on your knowledge of “recycling,” what might the prefix “re” mean?
- How does adding the suffix “ed” to the word “dispose” change its meaning?
- Choose the adverb and use it in a sentence:
power powerful powered powerfully
- Write these words in ABC (alphabetical) order:
paper plastic pieces pulp pellets products
- In “Beginnings & Endings,” find a word that starts with D and is a synonym of *discard* or *throw away*.

Science

- Select the term that doesn't belong:
bauxite iron ore bamboo coal
- Would a magnet stick to a steel soup can or an aluminum beverage can?
- List five sources of energy.
- Complete this analogy:
mined : minerals : : crops

Social Studies

- On the map in “Where in the World?” add a compass rose indicating the cardinal directions (north, south, east, and west).
- Using only the first two clues in “Where in the World?” what other country would be a possible answer?
- Identify the Indian Ocean.
- What continent is south of Japan (not pictured on the map)?

Journal Writing Prompts

- By adding prefixes and suffixes to the word “cycle,” make as many new words as you can.
- List new goods that recycled paper, aluminum, and plastic can become. What are some of the benefits of making new goods from recyclables instead of raw materials?
- Create a story about a litter cleanup using these terms: *Earth Day*, *candy wrapper*, *drink cup*, *trash bag*, *pick up*, *friend*, *playground*, and *littered*.
- Write a haiku about recycling. Be creative!

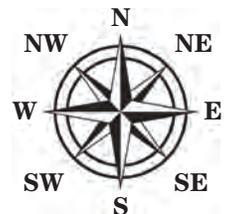


Extension Activity: Compass Confusion

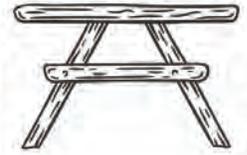
Make a copy of the master on the next page for each student or group of students.

Answer key:

1. NW
2. E
3. S
4. NE
5. SW
6. N
7. SE
8. W

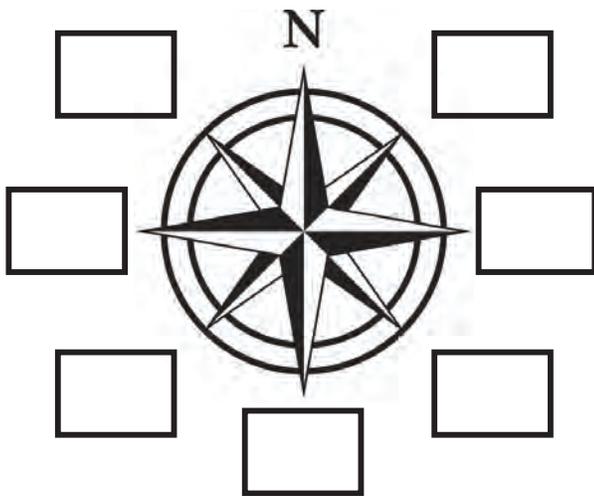


Compass Confusion



Name: _____

Directions: Mia and Alejandro need to get information about the Earth Day litter cleanup, picnic, and campfire to all of their friends who are camping in the nearby woods. However, their cell phones aren't working this far from town, so they need to hike to each campsite. They have a problem though. Their compass is only marked with North. Fix the compass by filling in the remaining directions and then use it to guide Mia and Alejandro to each friend's campsite.



What direction do Mia and Alejandro need to go to reach each friend's campsite?

1. Xavier _____
2. Carson _____
3. Emma _____
4. Kaylee _____
5. Jakob _____
6. Jada _____
7. Gianna _____
8. Miguel _____



Xavier



Jada



Kaylee



Miguel



Mia & Alejandro's campsite



Carson



Jakob



Emma



Gianna

Teacher Keys

Step by Step:

Paper: 4, 1, 3, 5, 2 — A machine chops the old paper into small pieces and water is added to create pulp. The pulp is washed and cleaned and then turned into slush or slurry. The pulp is put on screens to filter out any large or unwanted pieces. Pulp is fed through large rollers to remove water and make the new paper smooth. Finished paper is wound into large rolls.

Aluminum: 3, 5, 1, 4, 2 — Used aluminum is sorted and cleaned. The aluminum is melted down. Melted aluminum is formed into large blocks, called ingots. The aluminum ingots are rolled out into long, flexible sheets. The aluminum is shaped into new aluminum cans and products.

Plastic: 5, 2, 1, 4, 3 — The plastic is shredded into small pieces, or flakes. The plastic flake is washed and cleaned. Shredded plastic is melted so that it can be reshaped. The melted plastic is made into pellets. The pellets are mixed with dyes and formed into new bottles and other products.

Where in the World?:

China



Fraction Action:

1. The students brought in $3 \frac{7}{12}$ yards of fabric.
2. $\frac{1}{12}$ yard of fabric will be left over.
3. No, $\frac{1}{2} < \frac{5}{8}$

Scrambled Science:

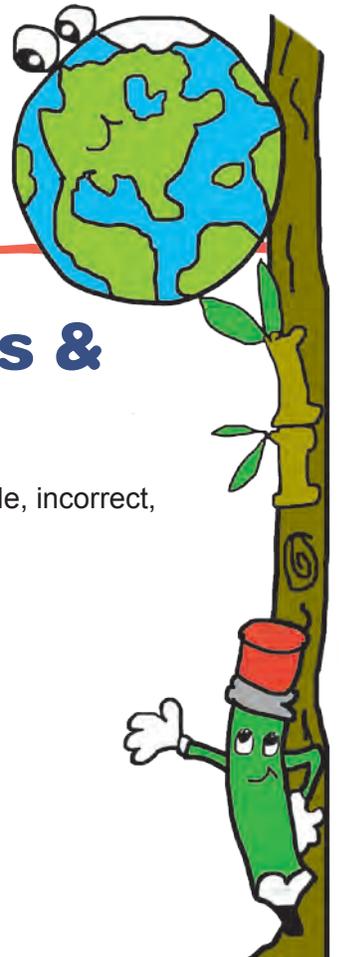
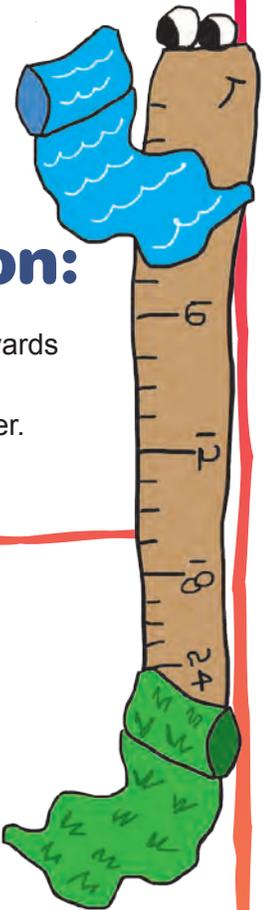
Terms: resources, energy, manufacture, harvested, mining, power

1. resources
2. power
3. mining
4. harvested
5. manufacture
6. energy

Beginnings & Endings:

Terms: dispose, responsible, incorrect, easier, recycled

1. recycled
2. responsible
3. Dispose
4. easier
5. incorrect



Skills and Standards

Activity	Subject Areas	Skills Addressed Correlation to Washington State Learning Standards
Beginnings & Endings	<i>English/Language Arts</i>	Applying knowledge of word structure elements (prefixes and suffixes), known words, and word patterns; Using spelling patterns for adding affixes; Reading words in context using knowledge of roots and related prefixes and suffixes (morphology) to determine meaning Grade 4: RF.4.3A; L.4.4A; L.4.4B
Fraction Action	<i>Math</i>	Understanding, interpreting, and comparing fractions; Solving real-world problems involving addition and subtraction of fractions referring to the same whole number Grade 4: 4.NF.2; 4.NF.3a; 4.NF.3d
Scrambled Science	<i>Science</i>	Developing solutions to reduce the impact of humans on the natural environment and the natural environment on humans; Exploring ways that communities protect Earth's resources and the environment; Describing that energy and fuels are derived from natural resources and their uses affect the environment Grade 4: 4-ESS3-1; 4-ESS3-2; 3-5-ETS1-1
Where in the World?	<i>Social Studies</i>	Using labels and symbols to locate and identify physical and political features on a map; Comparing relative locations on a map Grade 4: EALR 3: Geography 3.1
Step by Step	<i>Science</i>	Constructing explanations of how the designed world works which is consistent with available evidence; Communicating ideas clearly; Understanding how the processes of simple machines work together in everyday life; Understanding changes in matter during a manufacturing process Grade 4: 4-ESS3-2; 3-5-ETS1-1
	<i>English/Language Arts</i>	Describing the relationship between steps in a process using textual clues Grade 4: RI.4.3; RI.4.5
Articles	<i>English/Language Arts</i>	Reading and comprehending nonfiction, informational text; Applying context clues to determine meaning of unknown words; Determining meaning of content-specific words and phrases in nonfiction text Grade 4: RI.4.2; RI.4.4; RI.4.7; L.4.4a; L.4.4c; L.4.6



Funded by Skagit County Public Works,
Solid Waste Division

**SKAGIT COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS
SOLID WASTE DIVISION**
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