

GRADE 4 LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Do the Sorting Shuffle

Summary

In this lesson, learners become familiar with the different categories of waste through an interactive sorting activity. The lesson includes a discussion about how to better incorporate the 3Rs into everyday life.

Objective

To teach students proper waste sorting habits through a fun, hands-on activity. Through group discussion, students will reflect on how they reduce and reuse in their everyday life.

Pre-Activity

SORTING SIGNS

DIRECTIONS

GROUP AND CLASS DISCUSSION

Break the class into five groups and assign each group one of the **Waste Category Signs (Appendix 1)**:

REFUNDABLES RECYCLABLES ORGANICS PAPER GARBAGE

Ask each group to brainstorm what materials belong in their assigned category.

Explain to the class that waste in landfills and waste that ends up as litter are big problems for the health of our ecosystems. (e.g. wildlife could mistake litter for food; landfills are expensive to build and maintain; runoff from landfills may contaminate waterways)

Ask students how waste ends up in landfills and as litter? Tell students that proper sorting of waste prevents material from ending up in landfills, in parks or on roadsides.

Explain that Nova Scotia has one of the best waste management systems in the country, and was one of the first provinces to have curbside organics collection. Because Nova Scotia has excellent composting and recycling systems, it is important to use them by sorting waste properly.

MATERIALS

Appendix 1:
Waste
Category
Signs

DURATION
15 mins

MAIN LEARNING OUTCOME

GRADE:

4

SUBJECT:

Social Studies



Learners will investigate the relationships between humans and the physical environment.

SKILLS

Investigate

Ask and revise questions; locate several relevant details to support an answer; organize and compare details; identify relationships and communicate findings.

Question

Generate broad questions that arise from simple to more complex problems and issues; narrow and begin to revise questions, to create a question to investigate.

CROSS-CURRICULAR LINKS

English Language Arts



Reading and Viewing

Learners will respond personally and critically to a range of culturally diverse texts.

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Activity

DO THE “SORTING SHUFFLE”

DIRECTIONS

Place the five **Waste Category Signs (Appendix 1)** in different areas of the room.

Print two copies of **Waste Item Cards (Appendix 2)**, and cut out the cards. (You will need one waste item per student.) Attach a piece of tape on each card and stick it onto the back of each student. Tell the players that each card represents a waste item.

Explain that each player is expected to find out what kind of waste item is on his or her back by asking “Yes or No” questions.

Divide the class into groups of four or five. Each player will then ask “Yes or No” questions to their group members that will help them learn the identity of their waste item. (The teacher can circulate amongst the groups giving clues if needed).

After each player has discovered the identity of their waste item, they will stand in the corner next to the proper sign (pop can next to REFUNDABLES, apple core next to the ORGANICS sign, etc). To help the students make sure they are standing in the correct place, refer to the **Divert NS Sorting Guide for Schools**, which can be found at divertns.ca/resources/brochures-guides

The first group to have all their players in the correct area wins! Each member of the winning group then explains what their waste item was and why it belongs in the chosen bin (e.g. an apple core goes in the organics because it breaks down into compost, etc.)

Post-Activity

THE “OTHER” R’s

DIRECTIONS

Break the class into pairs and ask them to brainstorm ways we can **REDUCE** and **REUSE** in our everyday lives. Use the discussion guide below to prompt students:

REDUCE

- Reduce by not buying as much.
- Reduce by using reusable products like cloth shopping bags and reusable cups.
- Reduce by not eating in restaurants that use disposable dishes.
- Reduce by renting or sharing things like tools or games.

REUSE

- Reuse by fixing things that are broken.
- Reuse and save money by shopping at garage sales and flea markets.
- Reuse by trading seldom used toys with a friend.
- Reuse by saving paper with one blank side and using it for shopping lists.
- Reuse by giving old clothes to a friend or donating them to charity.

MATERIALS

Appendix 1:
Waste Category Signs

Appendix 2:
Waste Item Cards

DURATION
30 mins

MATERIALS

n/a

DURATION
15 min

Assessment

FORMATIVE Evaluate student learning by observing them throughout all of the lesson plan activities.

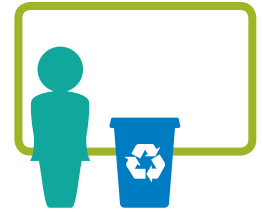
SUMMATIVE (OPTIONAL) Evaluate whether or not each group properly sorted themselves into the proper corner.

TRY SIMILAR ACTIVITIES

Waste Relay Race (Grade P-1)

Guess How Long that Garbage Lasts (Grade 4-5)

Divert NS provides free waste sorting signage. Contact Divert NS, or download the signs at divertNS.ca



WASTE REDUCTION EDUCATORS

Divert NS provides funding to municipalities to deliver waste reduction education to schools across the province. Your local waste reduction educator(s) provides the following services, and more, free of charge!

- classroom presentations
- green team set up
- advice on bins and signage
- tours of local waste facilities
- school waste audits

To find out more, visit divertns.ca

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ABOUT DIVERT NS

Divert NS is a not-for-profit organization championing recycling in Nova Scotia. For over 20 years we've helped build a culture of recycling through environmental stewardship, education, and innovation. Divert NS operates the **Beverage Container Deposit-Refund Program** and the **Used Tire Management Program**. In addition, we work in collaboration with government,

industry, and academia to divert waste-resources from landfill. Divert NS, in partnership with municipalities, delivers education and awareness programs to schools, businesses, and community groups. Divert NS also works to develop stewardship agreements and funds innovative research and development initiatives.

Toll-free 1.877.313.7732 • info@divertns.ca • divertNS.ca



Waste Category Signs



ORGANICS

REFUNDABLES

RECYCLABLES

PAPER

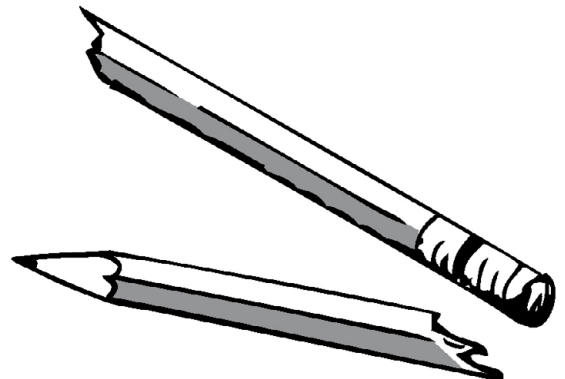
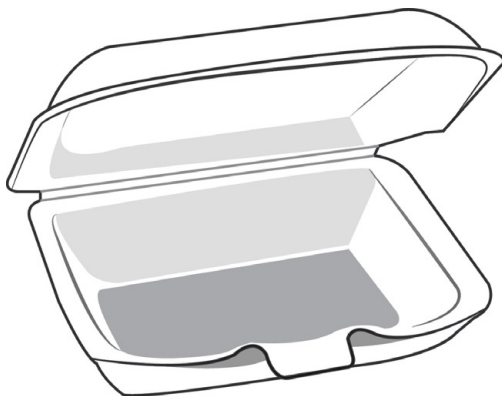
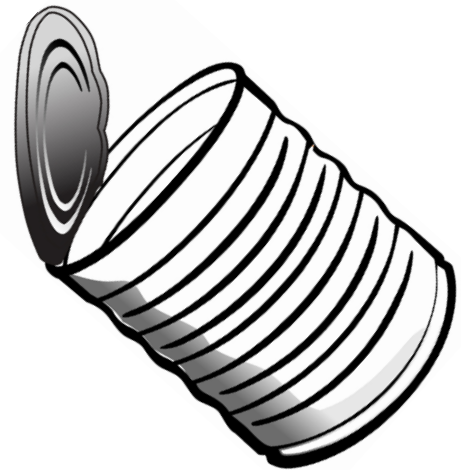
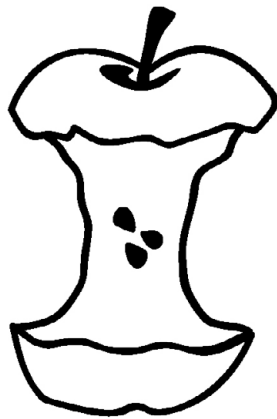
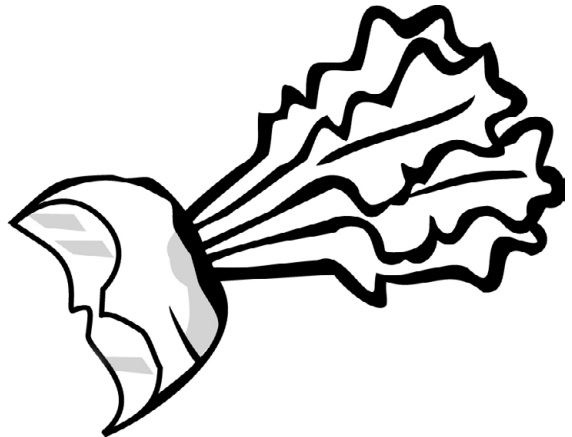
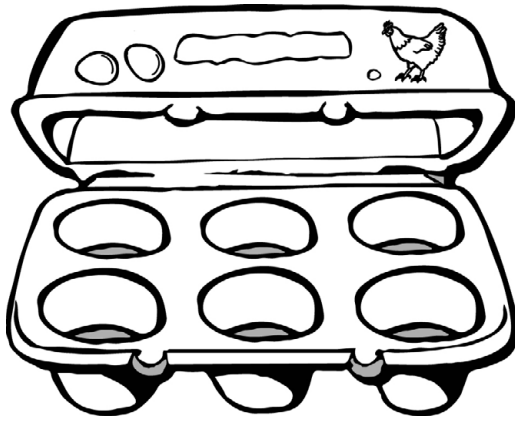
GARBAGE

APPENDIX 2

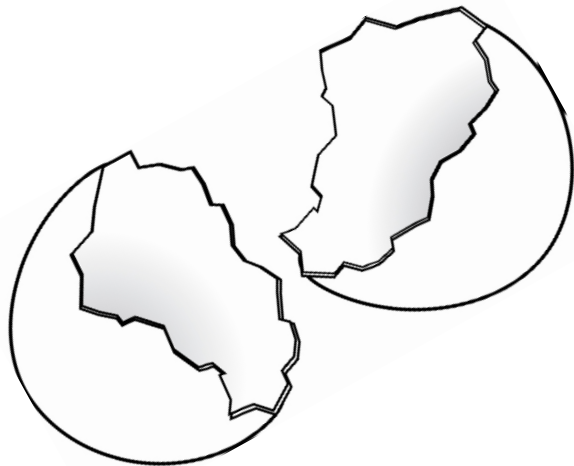
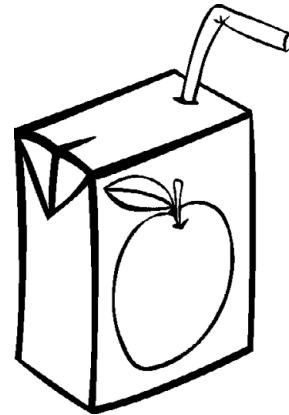
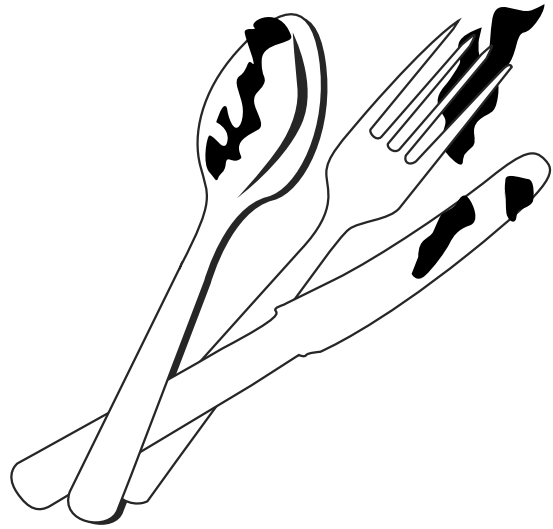
DO THE SORTING SHUFFLE

Waste Item Cards

Print two copies of each page (or enough for each student to have one waste item)



APPENDIX 2: DO THE SORTING SHUFFLE (CONT'D)



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