

# Reduce / Reuse / Recycle

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## ALUMINUM

Recycling one aluminum can supplies enough energy to watch TV for how many hours? (3)

How long does it take for a recycled aluminum can to become a new can? (6 weeks)

By the time we finish asking this question, how many aluminum cans are made? (50,000)

How many times can an aluminum can be recycled? (forever)

How many aluminum cans are used each year? (80 trillion)

## PAPER

How many trees does it take to produce all Sunday newspapers? (half a million)

How many trees can we save per year if we recycle our newspapers? (250 million)

How many pounds of paper do Americans use per person each year? (680 pounds)

How much of an average dump is paper? (40%)

## PLASTIC

How many plastic bottles are used per hour? (2.5 million)

How long does it take plastic garbage bags to decompose? (10-20 years)

How long does it take Styrofoam to decompose? (Forever)

Which 3 numbers of plastic are safe and recyclable? #s 1,2,4,5 #1 (PET – softdrink and water bottles), #2 (HDPE – milk jugs, detergent and shampoo bottles, #4 (LDPE – plastic shopping bags, reusable drink and food containers) #5 (Tupperware, Rubbermade, yogurt containers)

## **TRASH**

How many diapers does a baby use in its lifetime? (10,000)

How many disposable diapers are thrown away in the trash each year in the US? (16 trillion)

How long does it take for a disposable diaper to decompose in a landfill? (450 years)

How much more does it cost to use a disposable diaper than a cloth diaper? ( 7 times )

How much of our trash is made up of packaging materials like cardboard and shrink wrap? (65%)

Everyday, a person produces how many pounds of waste? (4 pounds)

What percent of our trash is recyclable? (75%)

What percent of our trash is actually recycled? (25%)

Americans produce how much waste per person compared to Europeans? (2 or 3 times as much)

How long does it take for a glass bottle to decompose? (forever)

## **TRUE / FALSE**

The United States is the #1 trash producing country in the world. (True)

Aluminum was once more valuable than gold. (TRUE)

Cell phones can NOT be recycled. (False)

Juice Bags are recyclable. (False)

Crayons can be recycled. (True)

Crocs can be recycled. (True)

CD and DVD discs can be recycled. (True)

Plastic credit cards can be recycled (False)

Batteries should not be thrown away – they contain dangerous contaminants that can enter our water supply. (True)

Sneakers can be recycled to make playground materials. (True)

Ziplock bags can be recycled IF the zipper part is cut off. (True)

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

How many acres of rainforest are cut down every minute? (100 acres)

The amount of energy saved when you recycle one glass bottle is enough to power a light bulb for how many hours? (4 hours)

How much of the water used in your house is flushed down the toilet? (33%)

Printer ink cartridges can be recycled for cash at most office stores. What percent are thrown in landfills? (70%)

**LET'S BRAINSTORM WAYS YOU , YOUR TROOP OR YOUR FAMILY CAN DO MORE TO GO GREEN. Each table come up with 3-5 things you can do at home or at school.**