

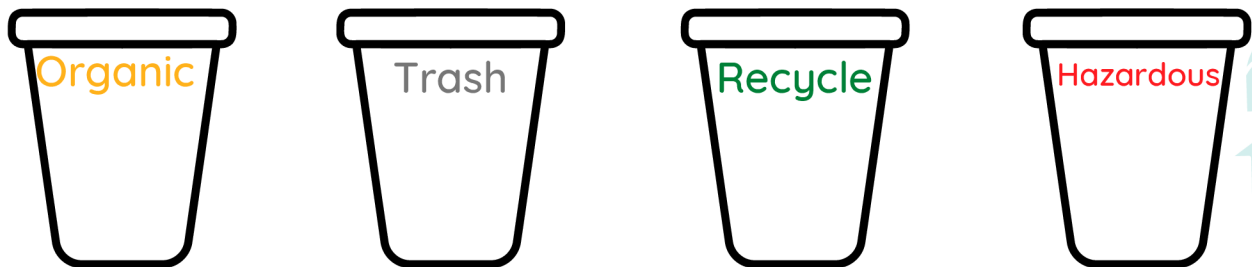
# Earth Day Activity Packet

Ages 9-12



# Sort the Items

Directions: Use the 'What Goes Where' search tool to sort these items correctly. Draw a line from each item to the correct bin. (arrows indicate two separate items to sort)



# Draw an Upcycle

**Directions:** Recycling can be more than just putting the correct items in the bin. Upcycling is a way to do your own recycling. Upcycling is taking an item you no longer need and turning it into something new to be used again in a different way. This is a great way to keep non-recyclable items out of landfills. An example of this would be using an old boot as a decorative flowerpot in your garden.


**Example:**



**Brainstorm your own ideas here:**

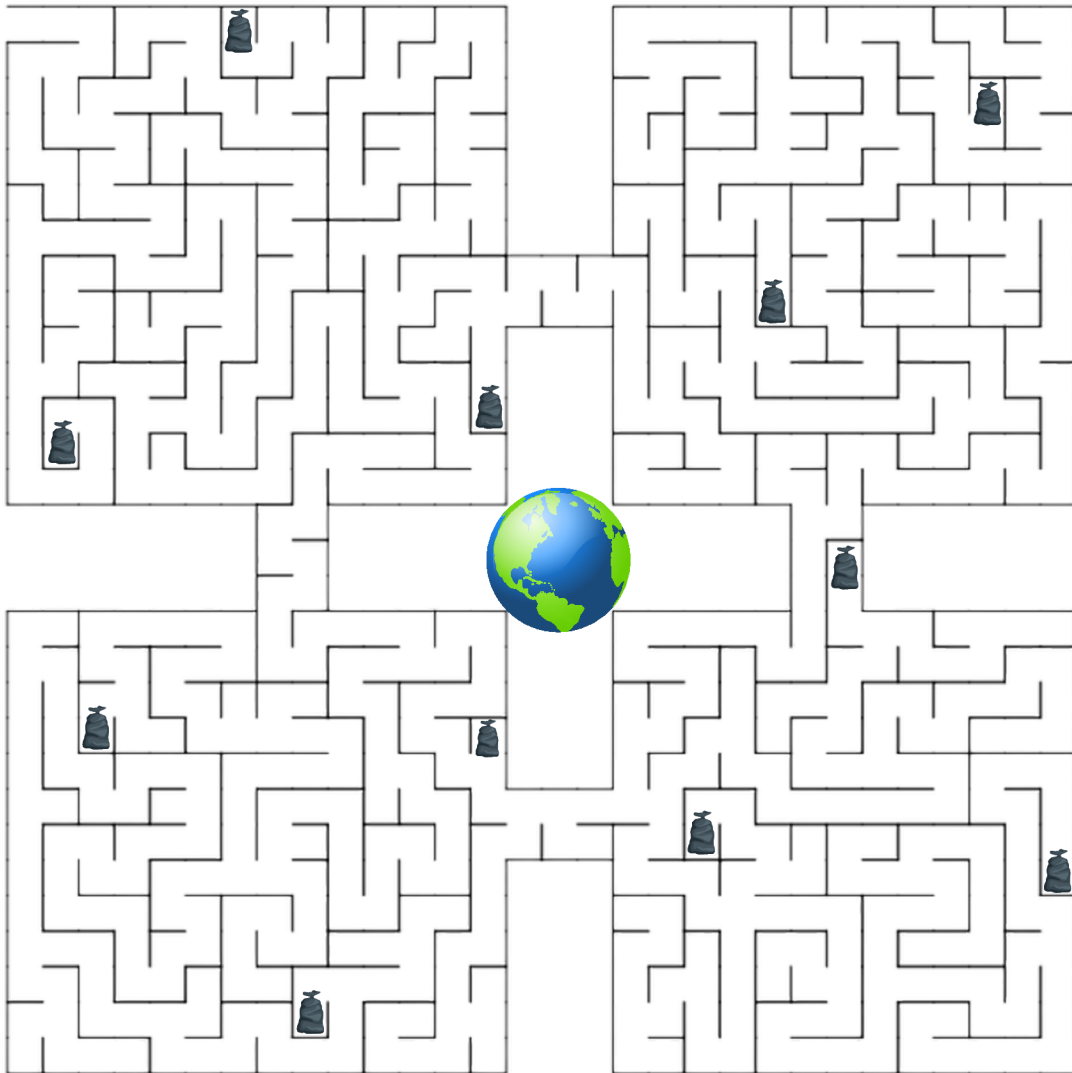
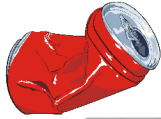
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**Draw your own upcycle idea from your list above:**



# Maze

**Directions:** Can you get the aluminum can through the maze and to the recycling bin? If you've reached a garbage bag, you've gone the wrong way!



# Reduce Your Waste

Directions: For each comparison, circle the most sustainable choice that will use less waste.

1



plastic  
water  
bottle



reusable  
water  
bottle

2



solid bar  
shampoo



shampoo  
in a bottle

3



reusable/  
washable  
straw



plastic  
disposable  
straw

4



disposable  
plastic  
bag

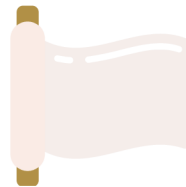


recyclable  
paper  
bag



reusable  
bag

5



plastic wrap  
for food  
storage



reusable  
containers  
for food  
storage

6



composting  
food waste



food waste  
in garbage

7



buying used  
clothes at  
thrift stores



buying newly  
produced  
clothes

# Cryptogram Message

Directions: Use the given key to decipher the sentence below.

## Key

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
12	6	20	5	14	16	10	24	22	11	3	4	19

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
9	13	15	23	1	7	17	18	26	2	25	8	21

1 14 20 8 20 4 14

8 13 18 1

16 13 13 5

2 12 7 17 14

6 8

20 13 19 15 13 7 17 22 9 10



12 17

24 13 19 14



# Trivia

**Directions:** Answer the trivia questions below then check your answers in the answer key on page 10.



1. Nearly \_\_\_\_\_ of food produced for people to eat is wasted each year.

- a. 1/8
- b. 1/3
- c. 1/2


2. Recycling 1 ton of paper can save how many trees?


- a. 3 trees
- b. 11 trees
- c. 17 trees

3. How many plastic bottles make it to recycling facilities? (The rest become litter or are landfilled.)

- a. 29%
- b. 52%
- c. 86%

4. Food waste sitting in landfills emits high levels of which kind of dangerous gas that is harmful to our atmosphere?


- a. Nitrogen
  - b. Methane
  - c. Carbon Dioxide
- 



5. How much produce grown for consumption is thrown away each year because it is considered "too ugly" for retail?

- a. 5%
- b. 10%
- c. 20%

6. Plastic is made from which of these resources?

- a. Oil
  - b. Soy
  - c. Coal
- 

# Start a Compost

Help recycle your food waste as compost this Earth Day!

Composting is all about finding the right balance of ingredients. Using water, air, sunlight, green materials, and brown materials, you can start producing rich topsoil that'll give your garden a natural boost.

Brown materials are any carbon-rich matter and green materials are any nitrogen or protein-rich matter. There should be about two to four parts brown material to every one part green material. Adding even more brown material will eliminate the odor, but too much brown materials will slow down the process.

Be sure to keep your compost moist like a sponge. Break down materials as small as possible before adding them. Turn the pile regularly to make sure all parts get enough air. The perfect pile shouldn't stink. It should smell like soil. And when it's done composting, it'll look like chocolate cake.

## GREEN MATERIALS

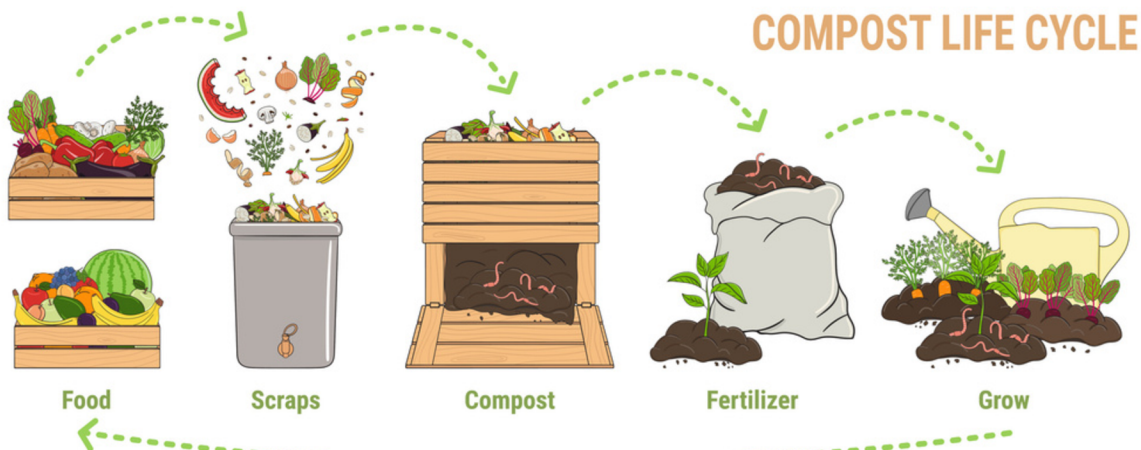
- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Coffee grounds and teabags
- Fresh leaves and plants
- Grass clippings
- Other organic kitchen waste

## BROWN MATERIALS

- Breads and grains
- Nutshells and egg shells
- Shredded newspaper
- Dead leaves
- Twigs and small branches

## DO NOT COMPOST

- Fats, grease, or oils
- Dairy products, meat, or fish
- Pet waste or litter
- Yard waste with pesticides
- Coal or ashes

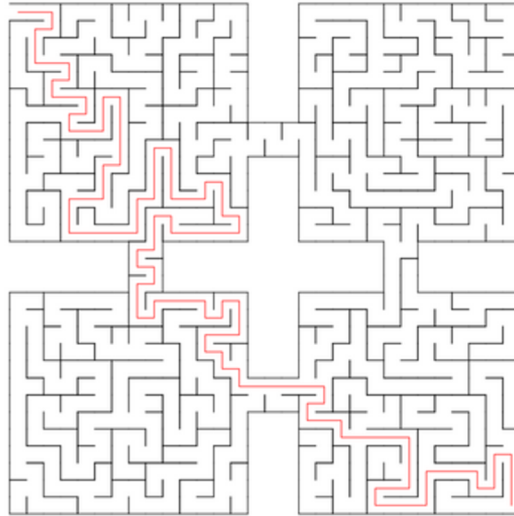




# Answer Key

\*\*\*Correct answers for materials can be found by using the What Goes Where search tool.

4



5



# Answer Key

6

R E C Y C L E      Y O U R  
F O O D      W A S T E      B Y  
C O M P O S T I N G  
A T      H O M E

7

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | B | 2 | C |
| 3 | A | 4 | B |
| 5 | C | 6 | A |