

Recycle It!



What's Gone!

Social Studies

Help the students set up a classroom recycling system. They should decide what kinds of materials should be provided a designated container (aluminum, paper, plastic.) You may wish to have a general container for “trash,” items that may or may not be recyclable but surely should not be handled above normal disposal by the students (used writing materials, art materials, etc.). Set up a buddy system for putting things into recycling that keeps everyone safe and records the number and types of materials in a given container. If a scale is available, weigh each container at the end of the week and record the amounts on a graph or chart. Discuss ways to reduce or reuse the materials in the recycling system and discover if the class can lower the amount of recycled materials over time. Invite the principal or other classes to a presentation of the results.

Recycle a Song!

Music

Pick a favorite song and sing it as a class. Ask students how they think you can “recycle” the tune. Write a few of the words on the board and invite students to make up new words—taking an old tune and making it new again. The songs can be written on chart paper and posted around the room or the school. After learning the songs, the students could share them with other classes, the principal, or their parents.

Reuzanimals

Art/Science

Have each student select one piece of material that could be recycled, or bring from home old buttons, jewelry, fabric scraps, or other items. This material should be used as the basis for the creation of a new kind of animal, the Reuzanimal. Attached to a piece of flattened cardboard box (art paper or board) the material might form the body, head or appendage(s) of a new kind of animal. Using markers or other writing materials, the students finish the picture of the animal and name it. Create a display in the classroom or around the school. You might want to have the students describe the activities of the Reuzanimals and how they help the environment.

Cleaning the Environment

Mathematics

Take four large manila envelopes and label them Glass, Paper, Aluminum, and Plastic. Paste a recycle symbol (page 85) on each envelope. Have students cut out magazine pictures of recyclable items—glass, paper, aluminum, and plastic. (Alternately, they could draw pictures of these items.) Then, when the class is out of the room, scatter the pictures of recyclable materials all over the classroom. The students will be surprised when they return! Explain that they need to help clean up the classroom by picking up all the recyclables and putting them in the proper envelopes. You may wish to remind the students of safety by preparing special tools for picking up the materials. Call attention to the recycle symbols on the envelopes. When all the trash is picked up, go through the contents of each envelope with the students to see if everything was sorted properly. Discuss with the class how recycling, and using recycled materials, helps our environment.

After verifying correct sorting, have students count the pieces in each envelope. Record the tally on the blackboard: 10 pieces of glass, 6 aluminum cans, etc. Hand out copies of the graph on page 86 and have each student make and label a graph representing the breakdown of the recyclable materials.

Reword!

Language Arts

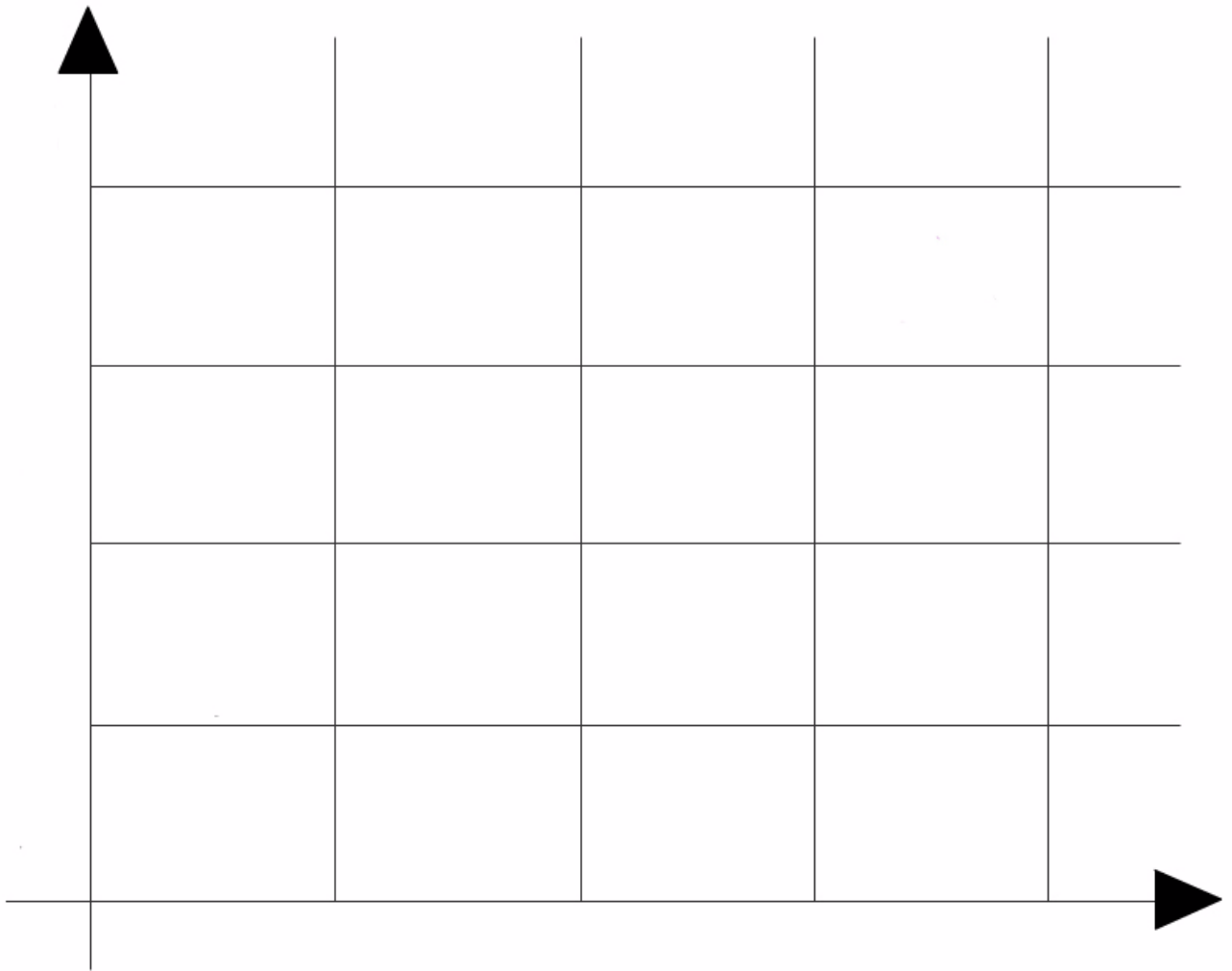
Select as many familiar words as you can. Use words such as bat, cat, rat, pick, pack, back, win, fin, pin, fall, wall, ball, tall, tack, sack, and sick, that have similar beginnings and/or endings. Place the words on cards (page 87) that can be cut. Hold up the words one at a time and have the students read them. Then, announce that the words have all been used and might as well be thrown away. Cut them at the appropriate place between the first letter and ending rime (between “b” and “all” in ball, for example) and drop them all into a box or bag. Pass the word pieces around and have the students build the pieces back into words.

Recycling Symbols



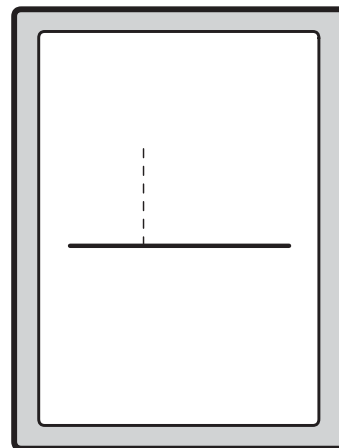
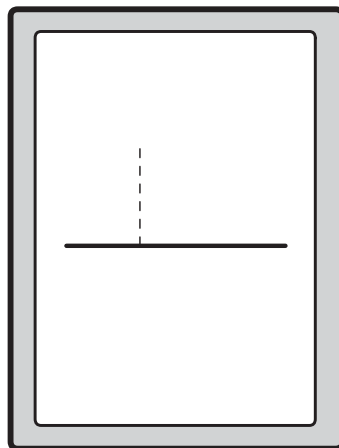
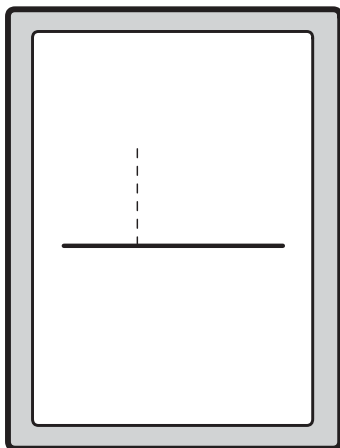
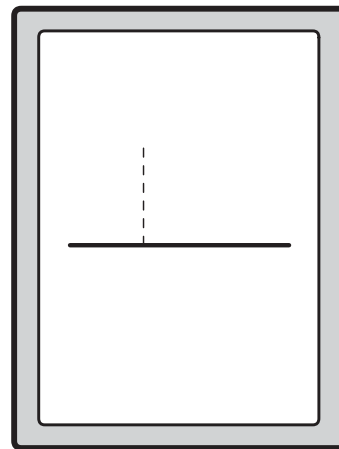
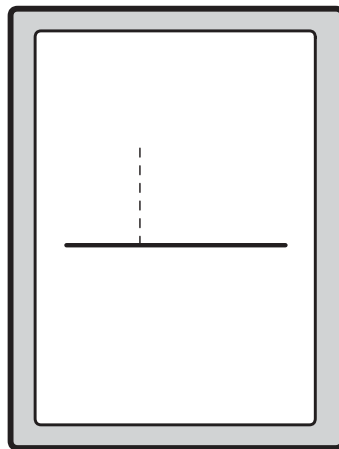
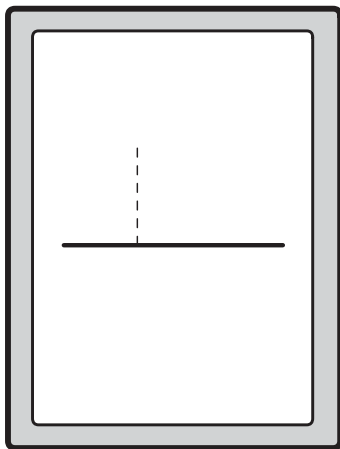
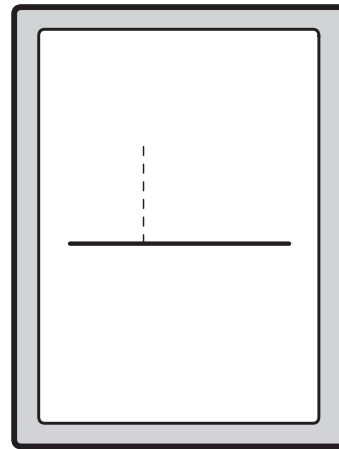
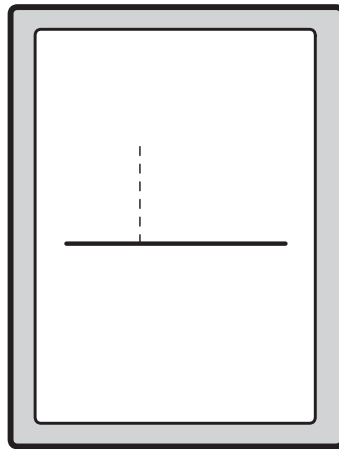
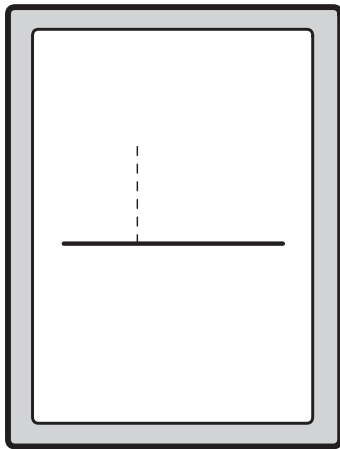
Use with "Cleaning the Environment" (page 84).

Recycling Graph



Use with "Cleaning the Environment" (page 84).

Reword! Cards



Use with "Reword!" (page 84).