



Activity: Daily Recycling Fact

Background:

There's no better way to get in the habit of getting in the scrap than learning a little about recycling and energy conservation each day. Spend 50 days in your classroom revealing a new recycling fact. We'll provide the first 25 facts, but then it's up to your students to research and find their own. Perfect as a bell ringer activity.

Point Value:

12 points

Key Themes:



Scrapping



Energy
Conservation

Procedure:

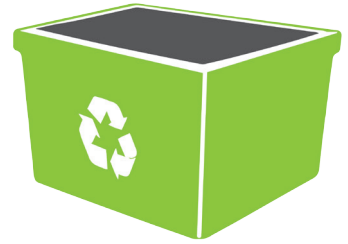
1. Write one recycling and energy conservation facts on the board as bell ringers each day for 50 days. Use the Museum's facts provided for the first 25 days.
2. Then, assign each student 1-2 facts for the remaining 25 days. They need to research and present the fact on the board for their designated day.
3. Have students record these facts in their "Recycling 50" logs.

Materials:

Provided by Museum:

- 25 recycling facts
- Fact log worksheet

25 Recycling Facts:



1. Recycling one ton of paper (2,000 pounds) can save 17 trees.
2. The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) estimates that 75% of American waste is recyclable, but we only recycle about 30% of it.
3. The Container Recycling Institute (CRI) estimates that the 36 billion aluminum cans landfilled last year had a scrap value of more than \$600 million dollars.
4. We generate 21.5 million tons of food waste each year. If we composted that food, it would reduce the same amount of greenhouse gas as taking 2 million cars off the road.
5. We use over 80,000,000,000 aluminum pop cans every year.
6. To produce each week's Sunday newspapers, 500,000 trees must be cut down.
7. The amount of wood and paper we throw away each year is enough to heat 50,000,000 homes for 20 years.
8. The average American uses seven trees a year in paper, wood, and other products made from trees. This amounts to about 2,000,000,000 trees per year!
9. American throw away 25,000,000,000 Styrofoam coffee cups every year.
10. A modern glass bottle would take 4000 years or more to decompose -- and even longer if it's in the landfill.
11. The United States is the #1 trash-producing country in the world at 1,609 pounds per person per year. This means that 5% of the world's people generate 40% of the world's waste.
12. On average, it costs \$30 per ton to recycle trash, \$50 to send it to the landfill, and \$65 to \$75 to incinerate it.
13. One-third of the water used in most homes is flushed down the toilet
14. A single quart of motor oil, if disposed of improperly, can contaminate up to 2,000,000 gallons of fresh water.
15. A running faucet wastes 2.5 gallons of water each minute.
16. Every year we dispose of 24 million tons of leaves and grass clippings, which could be composted to conserve landfill space.
17. A full bath tub uses 70 gallons of water. A 5-minute shower only uses 10-25 gallons.
18. Turning of the tap while brushing your teeth in the morning and before bedtimes can save up to 8 gallons per day. This is a savings of 240 gallons per month.
19. A toilet made in 1992 or earlier uses up to 60 percent more water per flush than newer high efficiency toilets.
20. Paper products make up the largest part (approximately 40 percent) of our trash.
21. About one-third of an average dump is made up of packaging material!
22. Making recycled paper instead of new paper uses 64 percent less energy.
23. Americans throw away enough aluminum every month to rebuild our entire commercial air fleet.
24. For every \$1,000 of fast food sales, 200 pounds of trash is created.
25. Between 5-15% of what we throw away contains hazardous chemicals.

Recycling Facts Log

Directions: Listen to the daily recycling fact and record it here in your log. By then end, you will have gathered 50 facts about, recycling, conservation, and the environment to share with others.

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Recycling Facts Log

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