It's hazardous, and it's in your home!

CAUTION! WARNING! DANGER! POISON! These words are meant to keep people away, yet many people have several products in their homes with these warnings on the labels. Many paints, cleaners, and bug and weed killers contain harmful chemicals and toxins dangerous to humans, animals, and plants, as well as our air, water, and soil. Unfortunately, these dangerous products sit on the shelves in our homes, sometimes forgotten. The forgotten and unneeded items are called "Household Hazardous Waste," or HHW for short. It's a good idea to look at the shelves in your house and responsibly get rid of what you don't need.

One way you can help is to ask your parents if they've thought recently about which products they need and which they don't. Volunteer to help them make a list of all of the hazardous chemicals and products in the house. Your parents or grandparents will know which products they don't plan to use again, and you can note those items as HHW on your list. There is a safe way to dispose of HHW — we accept HHW and will safely recycle or dispose of it. Remember, *never* pour HHW down the drain or put it in the trash.

Just bring your HHW to the Ashley Convenience Center on Friday mornings between 8 a.m. and noon or on the first Thursday of each month from 3 to 7 p.m. There may be a small charge to drop off HHW. Please note that the Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District is closed on holidays, so be sure to call the Ashley Convenience Center at 260-587-3063 to make sure we're open, or visit our website, www.niswmd.org. Please keep chemicals in their original, labeled containers. Remember not to mix chemicals together. When loading HHW into your car or van, place items into a cardboard box in the trunk or in the very back, as far away from passengers as possible. Remember, never pour HHW down the drain or put it in the trash.

Here is a list of some of the most common HHW that your family may have sitting on shelves just waiting to be safely cleared away:

- Antifreeze
- Paint
- Drain openers
- Furniture polish
- Model paint and glue
- Motor oil
- Oven cleaner
- Paint thinner
- Household batteries
- Weed and bug killers

Did you know that latex paint is not considered a hazardous waste? Allow the paint to dry out by leaving the lid off of the can or by adding kitty litter or sand to harden it. Then dispose of the dried-out paint can, with the lid off, in your trash.

When your family has a job to do around the house, talk about less toxic choices. Many times a homemade cleaner might do the same work for less money. Check online for non-hazardous options. Here are a few examples:

- Instead of spraying weed killer, pull weeds by hand.
- Instead of using chemical fertilizers, create healthier soil by composting food scraps and yard waste.
- Instead of drain cleaners, try baking soda and vinegar, followed with boiling water.
- Instead of window cleaners, use vinegar and water.

And never forget — always dispose of HHW properly and safely.

Household Hazardous Waste Program hours extended!

Now residents can drop off HHW at the Ashley Convenience Center the first Thursday of each month, from 3 to 7 p.m., and every Friday morning, from 8 a.m. to noon.

Did you know?

Each household in the United States produces an average of more than 20 pounds of household hazardous waste (HHW) every year. For all U.S. households combined, that adds up to nearly 2.5 billion pounds of HHW per year!

Have old or broken devices?

E-cycle them!

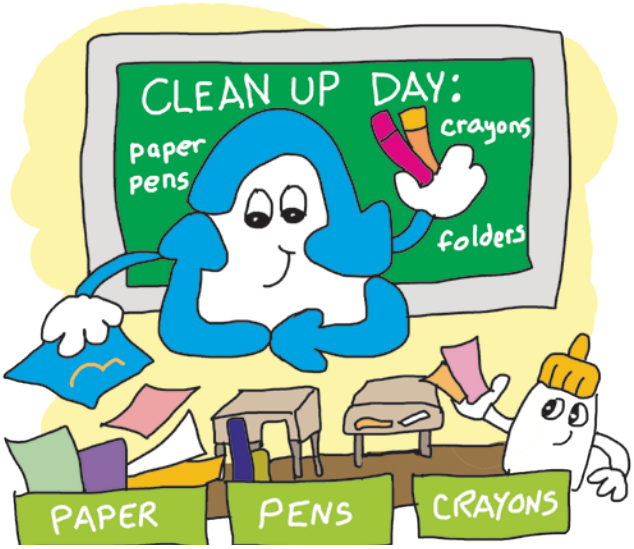
TVs, laptops, game consoles, cell phones, MP3 players, iPads and tablets, DVRs and DVD players, and e-readers — do you have any of these devices in your home? During the pandemic, lots of students used electronic devices to link to online classrooms to stay safe, so you've probably used one or more of these devices regularly. In fact, most American families own 10 or more electronic devices that can connect to the internet!

When your family replaces an electronic device, you have a decision to make. What will you do with the old one? Here are our suggestions:

1. Use electronic devices for as long as reasonable. Many devices are expensive, and they require a lot of resources and energy to produce. So, it makes sense to keep electronics working longer. Here's how: Keep them dry! Use protective covers and screen protectors, when possible. Remove dust from fans and air vents, which are usually found on the back of equipment. Let air circulate around electronics so they don't overheat. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for recharging batteries.

2. Don't store equipment that you no longer need or use. If you won't be using the device again, don't toss it into a drawer or shove it into the back of a closet. Electronics are most useful to someone else when they are less than five years old.
3. Donate or sell working devices that are less than five years old. Used cell phones, computers, TVs, and accessories might be just what a new owner needs. Be sure to completely remove (delete) all personal information before donating or selling your equipment. You'll probably need an adult's help to remove your personal information.
4. Recycle unusable electronic devices or those that you cannot give away or sell. Nationwide, more than 3.1 million tons of electronics are discarded each year, only about 39% of which are recycled. **In our state, it is illegal to throw electronic devices into the trash because, once landfilled, they can cause pollution to our water, air, and soil.** So, when your electronic devices become electronic waste (e-waste), don't put them into the trash. Instead, recycle them at the Ashley Convenience Center on Friday mornings, between 8 a.m. and noon, or on the first Thursday of each month, from 3 to 7 p.m. There may be a small charge to drop off some electronic items. Visit our website at www.niswmd.org for more information. Most cell phone providers accept old cell phones for recycling, and many Best Buy and Staples stores accept other electronic devices, too. Check with a store near you for details.

Recycling electronics ensures that hazardous materials, such as lead and mercury, are safely managed. It also conserves resources, recaptures useful metals, reduces pollution, saves energy, and helps create jobs.



Classroom cleanup

When you and your classmates are getting ready to clean everything out of desks and lockers, talk with your teacher about ways for the class to reduce waste by reusing and recycling as much as possible. You can keep our Earth in mind as you prepare for summer vacation.

To encourage reuse, set up a reuse/donation table for desk or locker clean-out day. Some schools call this a "Take Some/Leave Some" table. Students who no longer want usable school supplies can "Leave Some," and any students or teachers who want or need those school supplies can "Take Some" for free. Choose a volunteer to be in charge of taking any of the leftover items to an organization that collects school supplies for kids in need. Binders, book bags, lunch boxes, extra pens and pencils, and unopened craft supplies could all be reused or donated. You could even take up a collection of gently used school and uniform clothing. Many communities have organizations that accept used books.

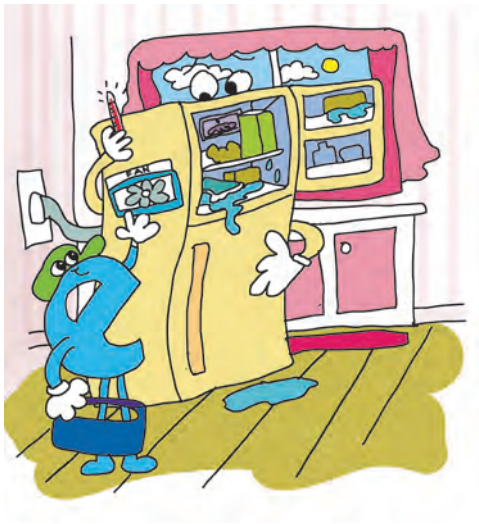
Make sure LOTS of clearly marked recycling bins are set up next to trash cans. Remove used paper from notebooks and recycle it, but keep the unused portion of the notebooks for next year or to use for drawing and writing projects this summer. Used paper with one blank side can become scratch paper or be cut into smaller pieces at home to make notepaper.

Don't forget the large spaces inside the school, such as the gym, cafeteria, auditorium, and playground areas. You and your class can look around and pick up trash and recyclables on the last day of school.

Have a green summer!

Saying goodbye to unusable appliances

It's summertime! You get to sleep in a bit and then pull on a T-shirt and shorts from the stack of clean laundry. After you wash your face, you head to the kitchen, open up the dishwasher, and grab a clean bowl and spoon for your morning cereal. Later in the day, after riding your bike around the neighborhood, you come home and fill a glass with ice and water, guzzle it down, and then grab a freezer pop. These are just everyday things that you do, but what happens when the washer and dryer quit working or the fridge goes out?



Suddenly, life gets a little harder — especially for your parents. We are used to having these appliances ready and waiting for our use. Without them, simple chores are a lot harder. Most of these large appliances, like stoves and dishwashers, last anywhere from 10 to 18 years, depending on how often they are used. If an appliance is not working and it is fairly new, it probably makes sense for your family to have it repaired. However, if the refrigerator or clothes washer is older, it could be time to retire the old one and get a newer model.

These large appliances can be recycled. They are made of 60% steel which can be reused in new appliances or to make bikes or cars. Some stores will take away the old appliance for recycling when they deliver the new model. If not, please visit our website, www.niswmd.org, or call the District office at 260-587-3063 or 800-777-5462 to find information on where and how to recycle your old appliances. Please note, appliances with Freon cost $50 to recycle, and appliances without Freon cost $25 to recycle.

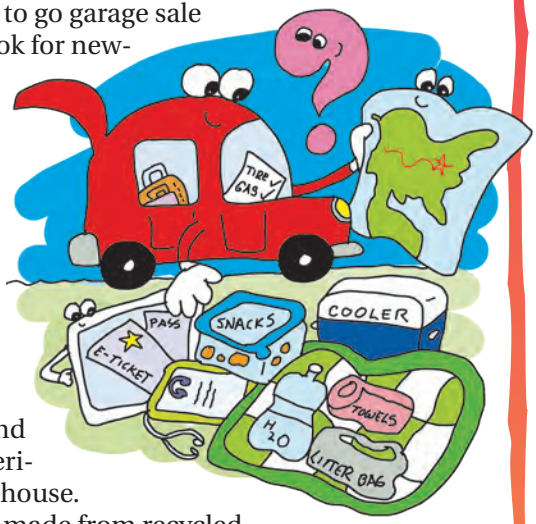
When your family is shopping, make it your job to look for the Energy Star logo. This means that the equipment will operate with little waste and use less energy than other models. For some appliances, your family's electric or gas company may offer special rebates, or money back, when you recycle an old appliance and replace it with a new, more energy-efficient model. Make sure to tell your parents to look for rebate information on the utility company website.

The next time you reach into the refrigerator for a yogurt or help fold the laundry, remember that your hardworking appliances make life a lot easier. When it's time for you to say goodbye, recycle them.

No summer break for the Three Rs

School's almost out for summer, but that doesn't mean a break from reducing, reusing, and recycling. Whether you are traveling or just hanging out at home with friends and family, make it a Three Rs summer. You probably already take good care of the Earth, but summer is a good time to add some new habits. Here are some ideas:

Reduce — Using fewer resources



- Set aside a day to go garage sale shopping to look for new-to-you games and toys.
- Try thrift store shopping for clothing and household items.
- Host a garage sale to clear out things you no longer use.
- Create crafts and gifts from materials around the house.
- Shop for items made from recycled materials.

Reuse — Finding new uses for an item

- Use that empty jelly jar to hold your hair accessories, small toys, or other doodads.
- Instead of buying movies or games, trade with friends (with your parents' permission, of course).
- Keep junk mail envelopes for making lists or writing notes.
- Wear that old, faded T-shirt as a pajama top or paint smock.

Recycle — Transforming items for a new use

- Try backyard composting or vermicomposting.
- Find one thing in your house that you aren't recycling but could be. Start recycling it.
- Make sure you know the rules for recycling in your community. Visit www.niswmd.org for details.

Don't forget — as the pandemic becomes more manageable, we will start becoming available to make presentations to your clubs and scouting groups, and we look forward to having booths at summertime fairs and festivals. To contact our educator to schedule a presentation, please visit our website at www.niswmd.org/education. We hope to see you soon and share with you more Three Rs ideas!

Take 5 with Noah!

Photo courtesy of Sarah Albert, Take 5 for the Great Lakes

Eleven-year-old Noah Albert (pictured) is a real-life superhero. While many of us were hunkered down indoors, hiding from the COVID pandemic, Noah was out wearing his superhero outfit (a face mask and gloves), using a trash-grabber, and socially distancing while picking up other people's litter from the beaches of Lake Michigan. Noah cares so much about cleaning up the beaches of Lake Michigan that he started a program last year called *Take 5 for the Great Lakes*.

"Our mission is to make people aware of the pollution in and around the Great Lakes," explained Noah. "There are five Great Lakes and five fingers on your hand, so I am asking people to pick up five pieces of trash every time they visit a Great Lake!"

One of Noah's favorite beaches is in Tiscornia Park in St. Joseph, Michigan. He and his family often travel north to the park from their home in South Bend, Indiana to kayak, enjoy nature, and clean up litter there. Noah invites other family members, friends, and classmates to join him, and sometimes he teams up with a group called the Alliance for the Great Lakes, which works across the region to protect the fresh waters of the Great Lakes. One time Noah had more than 45 volunteers!

In the past year, Noah has seen more and more disposable face masks littering the beaches. It makes him sad knowing the face masks are made from plastic and that birds can get tangled in the ear loops. For this reason, he asks people to be extra careful to hold on to their masks so they don't blow away or get lost and end up in nature.

He has also seen an increase in nurdles along the beach. Nurdles are small, plastic, bead-like pellets that serve as the building blocks for nearly all plastic products. During manufacturing, nurdles are melted and formed to make bottles, bags, and other items. Unfortunately, billions of nurdles are washing up on our shores due to problems in transporting and processing them.

"We need to stop using so much plastic and keep our lakes and beaches healthy for our drinking water and for the animals," urges Noah. "We as kids need to do our part to make sure we leave our world better than we found it."

To learn more about Noah's efforts, join a cleanup, or become inspired to do a cleanup of your own, follow *Take 5 for the Great Lakes* on Facebook and Instagram or visit the Alliance for the Great Lakes' Adopt-a-Beach website at https://adopt.greatlakes.org.

If you don't usually visit the Great Lakes but want to be a litter cleanup superhero in your area, visit the Keep America Beautiful™ website at https://kab.org/programs/great-american-cleanup/event/ to find a cleanup event near you or to get fantastic tips for how to pick up litter safely on your own. Maybe your superpower can be to "take 5" and pick up five pieces of litter whenever and wherever you go!

Recycle tires — don't burn or dump them!

How many summer days do you spend roaming around the neighborhood on bikes with your friends? Your wheels get you to your friends' houses, the park, and maybe even the store to buy a candy bar. Get a flat, and you're stuck walking until you can replace the tire. Did you ever wonder what happens to the old tire from your bicycle? What about car tires or those huge monster truck tires?

Old tires left lying around collect water and are the perfect place for mosquitoes to lay their eggs. One tire can be a breeding ground for thousands of those pesky, disease-carrying bugs during the warm months. Sometimes people choose to burn old tires, or they catch fire accidentally. These rubber fires are very difficult to put out. The burning rubber releases toxic chemicals into the air and leaves oily residue that pollutes streams and groundwater.

Tires don't need to be left sitting on the ground, nor should they be burned. Instead, tires can be made into hundreds of useful products. For example, 20,000 tires can be made into one artificial turf athletic field. Rubber mulch has many uses in gardens and on playgrounds. When we hop into the car and go for a drive, those roads may be paved with asphalt containing rubber from recycled tires.

Please remind your parents to recycle old, worn-out tires by dropping them off at the Ashley Convenience Center on Friday mornings between 8 a.m. and noon or on the first Thursday of each month from 3 to 7 p.m. Small fees may apply. If your family has questions, have them call 800-777-5462 or check our website at www.niswmd.org.

NORTHEAST INDIANA SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

2320 West 800 South • P.O. Box 370
Ashley, IN 46705

800-777-5462 • www.niswmd.org
info@niswmd.org

ON AVERAGE

HAZARDOUS WASTE

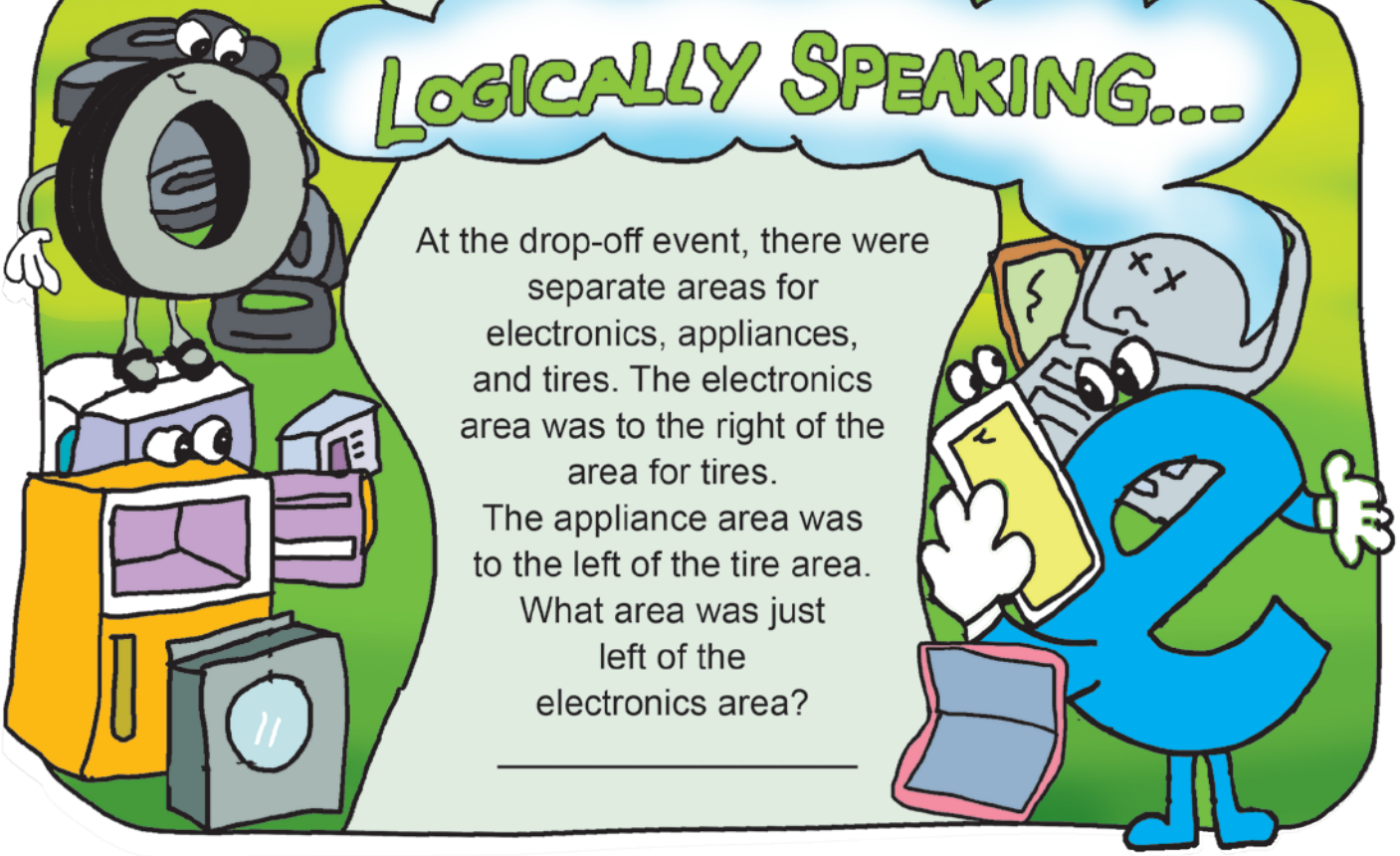
At the household hazardous waste (HHW) drop-off event, 215 families dropped off 645 containers of HHW for safe disposal. On average, how many containers did each family drop off?

_____

LOGICALLY SPEAKING...

At the drop-off event, there were separate areas for electronics, appliances, and tires. The electronics area was to the right of the area for tires. The appliance area was to the left of the tire area. What area was just left of the electronics area?

_____



A SCRAMBLED MESS

Jamal and Kanisha are helping their grandparents with the spring cleaning. They have both learned in school that it is important to put each type of waste in the right place. Unscramble the words in bold and place them into the blanks to complete the sentences.

1. When cleaning out the shed, Kanisha found some old paint and spray cans. To best care for the environment, her grandparents should take them to a household _____ waste drop-off.

dzahrasuo

2. In the closet, Jamal found a jacket that was too small. He can _____ it so that someone can reuse it.

nadote

3. In the backyard, Kanisha found an old, rotten tire. Kanisha had learned that leaving tires on the ground can spread disease and that burning tires is bad for the air. She asked her grandfather to find out where to take the tire for _____.

licercnyg

4. The shed contained a bunch of old newspapers and glass jars. They placed them into the recycling _____.

ract

5. They also found some moldy cardboard. Jamal decided to throw that into the _____ because it was too wet and damaged to be recycled.

shrat

Homo means "same" and **Nym** means "name" (sound), so homonyms have the same sound. **Hetero** means "different" and **Graph** means "writing" (spelling), so heterographs have different spellings.

Reading and writing can be a mystery. Some words are read out loud exactly the same but are spelled differently. Depending on the spelling, the word means something different. You need to think like a detective looking for clues and read the entire sentence to figure out the correct way to use each word. The word sets below include special types of homonyms, called heterographs, which include words that are pronounced the same but have different meanings, depending on how the words are spelled. Fill in the blanks with the correct heterograph set for each sentence. The first sentence has been done for you as an example.

no, know wear, where whether, weather see, sea
too, to, two by, buy week, weak ~~their, there, they're~~

1. There were 46 plastic bottles in their recycling bin, so they're emptying it now.
2. I can plainly _____ that if plastic bags blow into the _____, they could harm the fish and turtles.
3. Which clothes will you _____ to the Earth Day celebration, and _____ is it located this year?
4. You can often _____ used books at the bookstore _____ the park.
5. _____ of my friends went _____ pick up trash at the playground. I went along, _____.
6. We will pick up litter at the park _____ we have nice, sunny _____ or not.
7. If I don't get enough sleep during the _____, I am too _____ to play soccer on the weekends.
8. "_____," the teacher answered, "I don't _____ where to recycle Styrofoam nearby."

Bonus: Write a sentence using the homonyms "ate" and "eight."

_____

_____

JUST IN TIME

A timeline is a type of graph that is used to show the passage of time along a straight line. Timelines are especially useful in showing historical events in relation to each other. Below is a timeline showing a small part of the history of recycling in the United States. Use the timeline to answer the questions.

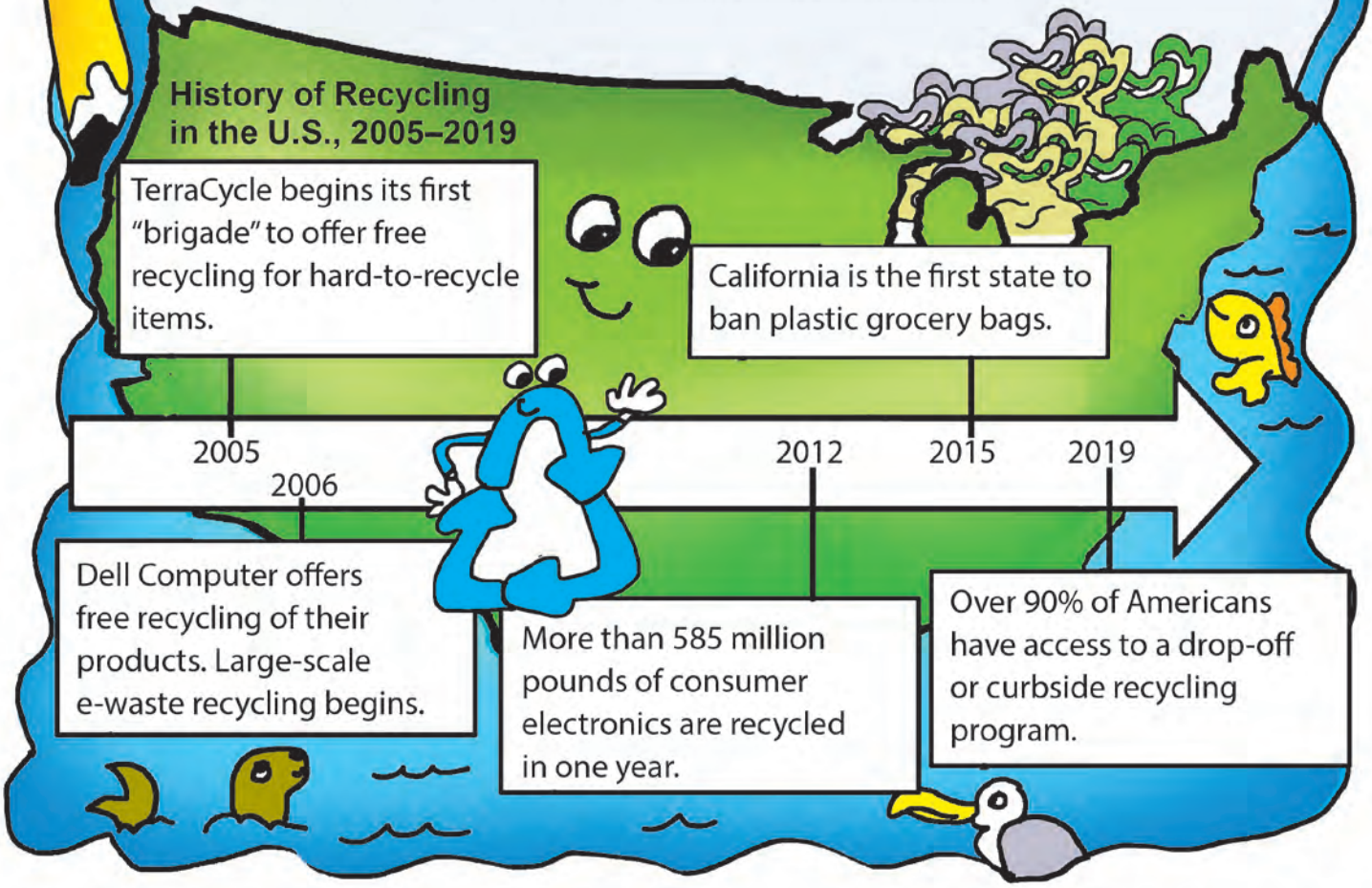
1. Which state was the first to ban plastic shopping bags? _____
   When? _____

2. When did more than 90% of Americans have access to recycling programs?
   _____

3. Which happened first, e-waste recycling or California's ban on plastic bags?
   _____

4. What year did TerraCycle begin its first "brigade"?
   _____

5. How many millions of pounds of e-waste were collected in 2012?_____



Reuse Ideas

Math

- Three clubs collected litter. The Green Club picked up 19.5 bags, the Eco Club collected 21.3 bags, and the Earth Team filled 24.75 bags. How much total litter did the three clubs collect? What was the average number of bags collected per club?
- Convert 585 million pounds to tons. (Hint: There are 2000 pounds in each ton.)
- Isabella weighs 68 pounds. She stepped onto a scale holding a laptop computer. The scale read 72 pounds. How much does the laptop computer weigh?
- How old were you in 2015?

English/Language Arts

- Add the prefix "en" and the suffix "ed" to the word "danger." What does the new word you have created mean? Use the word in a sentence.
- Choose the verb and use it in a sentence:

  careful carefully caring care
- Write these words in ABC (alphabetical) order:

  whether week weak weather wear where
- In "Inspect to Detect," find a word that starts with *H* and is a synonym of *dangerous*.

Science

- Select the term that doesn't belong:

  tire oil car firewood gasoline
- Name a resource that is used to create tires.
- List five hazardous chemical products that might be found in your home or garage.
- Choose one of the words below to complete this analogy: flammable : burn :: _____ : poison

  product toxic safety

Social Studies

- If your family hosts a garage sale, are you selling goods or services?
- The first iPod was introduced in my state. I am home to the Golden Gate Bridge. What state am I?
- What is a "brigade"? Why do you think TerraCycle originally selected this name for its recycling collection programs?
- What large body of water forms part of the border of the state of Texas?

Journal Writing Prompts

- Write a list of instructions that describe how to clean a bathroom sink.
- "Never odd or even" is a palindrome phrase (it is spelled the same forward and backward). Use this or another palindrome word or phrase in a story.
- Write about your favorite thing to do outside during the summer.
- Think of different uses for school textbooks that are being replaced. How could they be reused? Be creative!
- If you could go back to the beginning of the school year, what would you tell yourself?

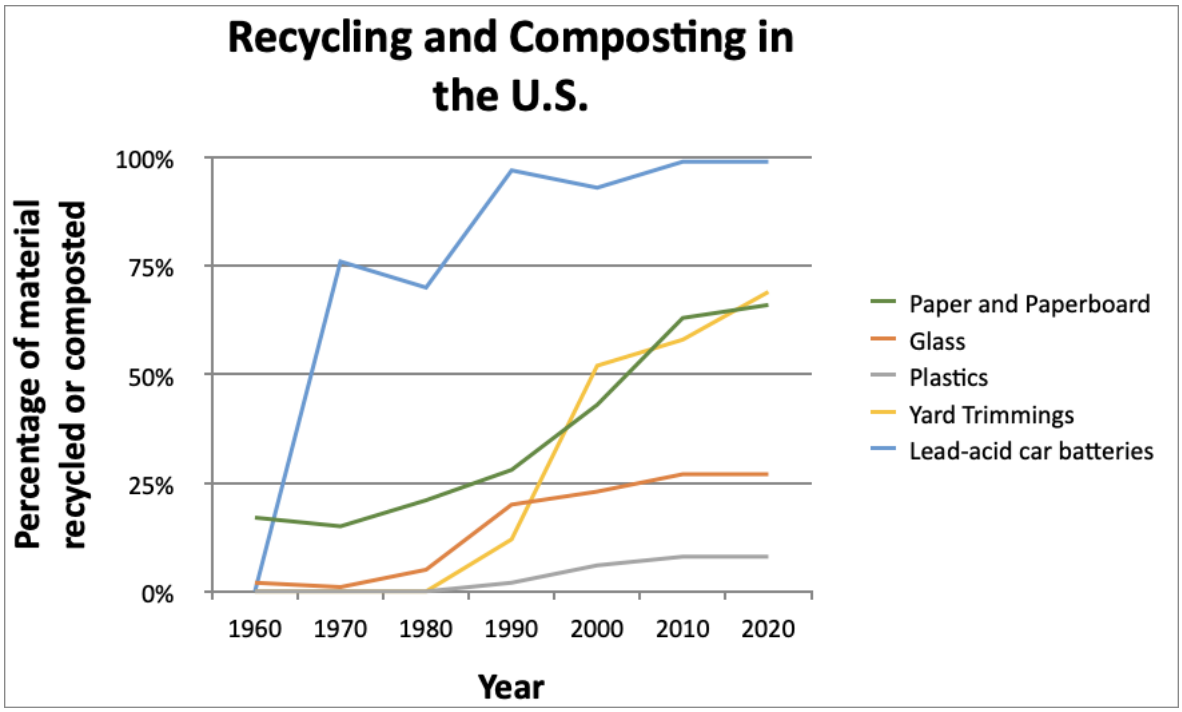
Extension Activity

In "Grasping Graphs," students will practice their math skills by interpreting data found in a line graph.

Grasping Graphs

Name: _____

Graphs are an easy way to look at data (information). **Line graphs** are often used to show change over time. This graph was created with data found on the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website.



Use the information from the line graph above to answer these questions:

1. Since 1970, which items have been recycled at the highest rate?

   _____

2. What year saw the same percentage of recycling for yard trimmings and glass?

   _____

3. From 1990 to 2000, which material experienced the largest increase?

   _____

4. Which material has consistently had the lowest recycling rates?

   _____

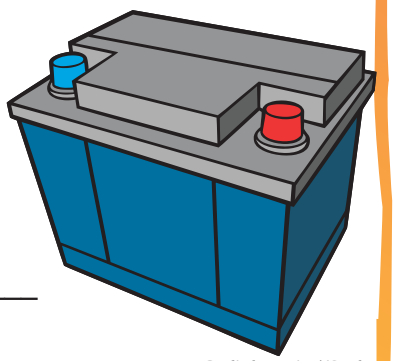
5. How much did paper and paperboard recycling increase from 1960 to 2020?

   _____

Bonus: Car and other vehicle batteries contain lead, which is harmful to humans and the environment. This is why these batteries should be recycled instead of being put into landfills. Search online for “car battery recycling” and write the name of a business or location near you that accepts car batteries for recycling.

_____

_____



Teacher Keys

Inspect to Detect

1. There…, their…, they're
2. see…, sea
3. wear…, where
4. buy…, by
5. Two…, to…, too
6. whether…, weather
7. week…, weak
8. No…, know

Bonus – Answers will vary.

A Scrambled Mess

1. hazardous
2. donate
3. recycling
4. cart
5. trash

Just in Time

1. California, 2015
2. 2019
3. e-waste recycling
4. 2005
5. more than 585 million pounds

On Average: Hazardous Waste

3

Logically Speaking

Tires

Grasping Graphs

1. lead-acid car batteries
2. 1994
3. yard trimmings
4. plastics
5. nearly 50%

Bonus – Answers will vary. Many AutoZone and other auto supply stores accept car batteries.

Skills and Standards

Activity	*Subject Areas*	*Skills Addressed*
Inspect to Detect	*English/ Language Arts*	Identifying relationships among words, including more complex homographs, homonyms, synonyms, antonyms, and multiple meanings; Applying foundational reading skills to build reading fluency and comprehension; Demonstrating command of grade appropriate spelling Grade 3: 3.RV.2.2; 3.RF.1; 3.W.6.2c; 3.RV.3.2 Grade 4: 4.RV.2.2; 4.RF.1; 4.W.6.2
Grasping Graphs	*Math*	Answering questions using provided data; Using observations to interpret the data using tables, line plots, and bar graphs; Reasoning abstractly and quantitatively; Writing tenths and hundredths in decimal and fraction notations Process Standards (all grades): PS.1; PS.2; PS.4; PS.5; PS.6 Grade 3: 3.NS.6; 3.DA.1 Grade 4: 4.NS.6; 4.DA.1; 4.DA.3
A Scrambled Mess	*Science*	Developing solutions that could be implemented to reduce the impact of humans on the natural environment; Describing methods humans currently use to extend the use of natural resources; Investigating ways individual communities protect the Earth's resources and environment Grade 3: SEPS.8 Grade 4: SEPS.8; 4.ESS.4
Just in Time	*Social Studies*	Interpreting timelines that show relationships among people, events, and movements in history; Understanding events and developments that brought important changes; Demonstrating an understanding of civic issues; Examining ways people have tried to solve environmental problems. Grade 3: 3.1.4; 3.1.5; 3.2.7; 3.3.12; 3.3.13 Grade 4: 4.1.15; 4.2.6
	English/ Language Arts	Applying knowledge of text features to locate information and gain meaning from a text using charts and graphs; Explaining the relationships between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in a historical text Grade 3: 3.RN.3.1; 3.RN.2.3; 3.RN.3.2 Grade 4: 4.RN.3.1; 4.RN.2.3; 4.RN.3.2
On Average/ Logically Speaking	*Math*	Making sense of problems and persevering in solving them; Reasoning abstractly and quantitatively; Solving real-world problems with whole numbers Process Standards (all grades): PS.1; PS.2 Grade 4: 4.AT.4
Article Text	*English/ Language Arts/Media Literacy*	Reading and comprehending nonfiction, informational text; Applying context clues to determine meaning of unknown words; Determining meaning of content specific words and phrases in nonfiction text; Developing media literacy Grade 3: 3.RN.1; 3.RN.2.1; 3.RN.2.2; 3.RN.3.1; 3.RN.4.1; 3.RV.2.1; 3.RV.3.2; 3.ML.1 Grade 4: 4.RN.1; 4.RN.2.1; 4.RN.2.2; 4.RN.3.1; 4.RN.4.1; 4.RV.2.1; 4.RV.3.2; 4.ML.1