PLANET ARK'S SCHOOLS RECYCLE RIGHT

The School Recycling Games

A guide to transforming waste items into fun, sporty activities at school.

30 YEARS

NATIONAL RECYCLING WEEK

PLANET ARK

Recycling relay

Materials

- 4 tubs labelled 'Recycling Bin'.
- 4 tubs labelled 'Rubbish Bin'.
- 4 cardboard boxes.
- A mix of empty recyclable and
- non-recyclable items. The types and quantities of items you decide to use is up to you. You will need 4 examples of each item.

Instructions

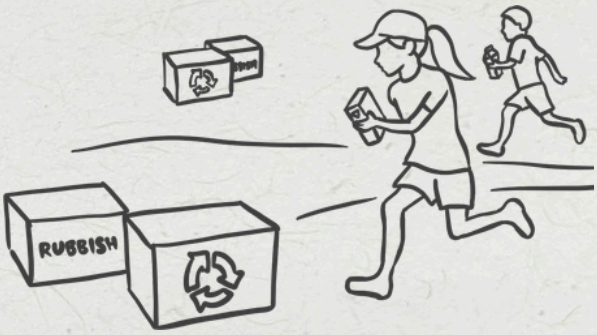
1. Split the class into four groups. You will need four rubbish bins, four recycling bins and four sets of materials (both recyclables and non-recyclables) mixed up and placed into the four cardboard boxes.

2. Line up the four groups side by side with a cardboard box of recyclable and non-recyclable items next to the first person in the relay. Place a recycling and a rubbish bin opposite each group at whatever distance you prefer.

3. When told to start, the first student in each group must take one of the items from the cardboard box, run to their set of bins and place their item into the correct bin, before returning and tagging the next person in the team.

4. This continues until all the items in a team's cardboard box have been sorted. This may mean students rotate through the group two or three times depending on the number of students per group, and the number of items to be sorted.

5. The winning team is the first to finish with the most items in the correct bins.



TIP

This game is best conducted in the hall or other large indoor space to avoid light materials accidentally becoming litter.

Recycling obstacle course

Materials

- Objects to build an obstacle course such as cones, tyres, a very large cardboard box, a pole balanced on two rubbish cans, etc.
- 1 bucket of recyclable and non-recyclable items.
- 1 recycling bin.

Instructions

1. Set up your obstacle courses using the materials you have. Cones can be used for students to weave their way in and around; tyres for stepping through; large cardboard boxes with open ends for crawling through; wrapping paper poles for students to go under (or over).

2. Students in each team take turns to navigate the course as quickly as they can while carrying a recyclable object. As soon as one student has finished the course and placed their recyclable item into the recycling bin, the next member of their team can begin.

3. Students should have all recyclable items in the recycling bin and all non-recyclable items left in the original bucket.

TIP

Make use of existing features in the school grounds if possible e.g. benches and playground equipment. Place the recycling bin at the end of the obstacle course.

Recycling scramble

Materials

- A large collection of recyclable items (preferably at least 3 items per student).
- 2 recycling bins.
- An area with a clearly marked centre line (e.g. a sports field, playground or school hall).

Instructions

1. Divide the class into two teams and position the teams on opposite sides of the playing area.

2. Place the recyclable items along the centre line, spread out as much as possible. Place a recycling bin at each team's end of the playing area.

3. As soon as the game starts, students run to the centre, pick up a recyclable item, run back to their end of the playing area, place the item in a recycling bin and repeat until there are no more items left. The team with the most items in their recycling bin wins.

Recycling dodgeball

Materials

- 6 soft-ish balls (e.g. underinflated soccer balls) – vary this number to suit your class.
- 12 recyclable drink cartons or bottles, with about 5 cm of sand inside each one (these will be used as skittles/pins).
- A playing area with a clearly marked centre line e.g. a sports field, playground or school hall (the 'court').

IMPORTANT DODGEBALL SAFETY RULES

- The balls must be thrown underarm and players may only aim below the waist.
- Players cannot enter the exclusion zone around the skittles, which prevents the skittles from being directly guarded.
- Players must stay in their half of the court unless they are moving off the court to collect balls that have rolled out of bounds (however, players must not throw the ball until they are back inside their half of the court).
- Kicking is not allowed.

Instructions

1. Divide your students into two teams and allocate one side of the court to each team.

2. At each end of the court, line up six 'skittles' about half a metre apart. Use chalk or another suitable material to mark a 2 metre 'exclusion zone' around the skittles.

3. Each team begins with an equal number of balls (e.g. 3 balls per team). Players can pick up the ball with their hands but must not allow any balls to hit them on the leg. A player is 'knocked out' if they are hit on the leg by a ball.

4. The aim is to knock down all the skittles on the opposing team's side or to get all of the other team's players 'out' (whichever happens first).

Recycling bat-and-ball

Materials

- A cricket bat, softball bat or similar.
- 4 to 8 empty milk or juice cartons, in a cardboard box or another suitable container (the more you have, the longer the game will run).
- 3 recycling bins.
- 2 bases.

Instructions

1. Each group is divided into a pitching team and a batting team, with three members in each team.

2. Place the two bases apart on the field and ask the two teams to line up behind the bases. The front student in the pitching team becomes the first pitcher and the front student in the batting team becomes the first batter.

3. Place the container of empty cartons or bottles next to the pitcher's base. Arrange the three recycling bins a suitable distance away from the batter (which may be between the pitcher and batter).

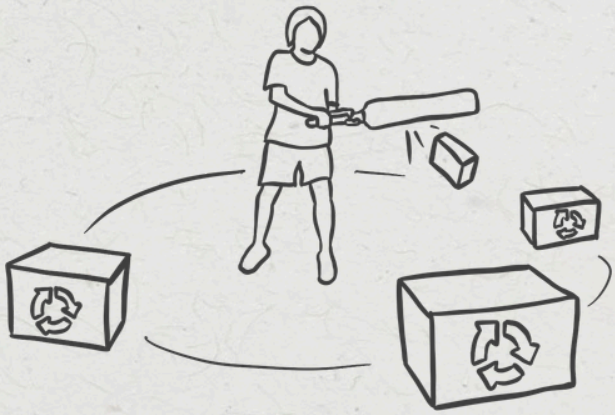
4. The pitcher pitches the carton or bottle underarm to the batter. The batter must try to bat the carton or bottle inside one of the three recycling bins. Hit or miss, both the pitcher and batter move to the back of their team and the next two students become pitcher and batter.

5. If the first batter missed the recycling bins, the fallen carton or bottle is pitched again.

6. The game continues until all cartons or bottles have been successfully hit into the recycling bins by the batting team. Then the teams swap roles.

NOTE

The distances between bases and bins can be determined by the teacher based on the type of carton or bottle used, the type of bat and the age of your students.



Recycled bowling

Materials

- 10 empty drink cartons or bottles (for bowling pins) with about 5cm of sand in each bottle or carton. This will make the containers a little harder to knock over and more stable in a breeze.
- 1 basketball, netball, soccer ball or similar.
- Chalk or another suitable material for marking out lines on the ground.

GET ARTSY!

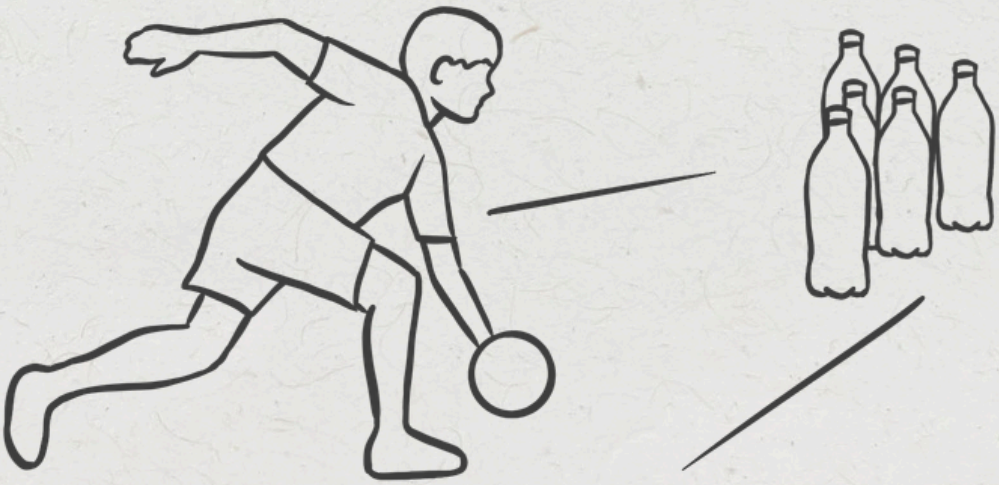
Before you begin, the class could paint the bottles to look like bowling pins!

Instructions

1. Arrange the 'bowling pins' in a standard ten-pin bowling configuration.

2. From a marked distance, students take turns to bowl over as many pins as possible with two bowls of the ball. Rotate the players within the team so that one person is positioned behind the pins ready to catch and return the ball.

3. For players who successfully knock over all ten pins with two bowls of the ball, ask them to move a few metres behind the marked line and try again as a challenge.



Make your own recycling medals

CELEBRATE YOUR RECYCLING SUPERSTARS WITH REUSED MEDALS

Materials

- Bottle tops (caps) or plastic lids of varying colours.
- Used ribbon, or strips of fabric from an old piece of clothing.
- Scissors.
- A hole punch or sharp object (teacher help and supervision will be needed here).

Instructions

1. Sort the bottle tops into colours.
2. Decide which colour will represent Gold, Silver, Bronze and Participation.
3. Cut the ribbon or fabric into 60 cm lengths
4. Create holes in the top of the lids (teacher help needed here) large enough to thread the ribbon through
5. Thread the ribbon or fabric through the top and tie
6. Present to your recycling champions!

Join Planet Ark's Schools Recycle Right

Register for the Schools Recycle Right and receive a certificate to present to your recycling champions.

SHARE YOUR RECYCLING TRIUMPHS

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#NationalRecyclingWeek

30 YEARS

JOIN THE CYCLE

30 YEARS

“The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that **someone else will save it.**

ROBERT SWAN
Explorer and conservationist

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