



Take the “I Recycle” Pledge

America Recycles Day Activity

Audience

Grade Levels K-6

Objective

Encourage children to make a commitment to recycling.

Overview

In this activity, students will commit to recycle more by signing a pledge together. Research shows that making a commitment can have a positive impact on building motivation that leads to lasting changes in behavior. Students will be asked to choose one material that they will recycle more of and write or draw it next to their name.

Step 1: Gather Materials

- Large poster board, sheet of paper, or piece of cardboard
- Assorted markers, pens, or crayons

Optional:

- Printed copy of the kids pledge (page 3) with tape or glue

Step 2: Prepare

Tape or glue the kids pledge to the center of your poster or cardboard. Students will sign their names around the pledge.

Step 3: Teach and Encourage

Use America Recycles Day as an opportunity to teach your students about the benefits of recycling. Consider doing another one of our kids activities (AmericaRecycleseDay.org/toolkit) along with the kids pledge, and also see our fun facts for kids (page 2).

Step 4: Let the Pledging Begin

Ask your students to choose a material that they will start recycling more. This is a good time to give them some examples of items they might not know are recyclable or might not remember to recycle. For example: used electronics, plastic bags, shampoo bottles, or the caps on plastic drink bottles. Make sure students know everything they can recycle at school, and tell them they can find out what is recyclable at home on Earth911.com. Also consider rewarding students with an America Recycles Day bookmark or other promotional item after they take the pledge.



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Fun Facts for Kids



The aluminum cans recycled in 2010, stacked one on top of the other, would be more than 123 million times taller than Disney's Space Mountain.



In 2010, Americans threw away 11.2 million tons of steel. That amounts to more than \$3 billion in wasted material, or enough to buy lunch for everyone in the United States!



Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to power a television for 20 minutes. That's a whole episode of your favorite show if you don't count the commercials!



In 2010, Americans trashed enough paper to cover 26,700 football fields in paper three feet deep.



The amount of plastic bottles recycled in 2010 provided enough raw material for about 7 million extra large t-shirts to be made.

Starting Today,

I Pledge to

Recycle More...