

Recycling

Discussion Topic Pack

A warm-up, vocabulary, and graded discussion questions for talking about **Recycling**.

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____ Score _____

Warm-up: What is the last thing you threw away that could have been recycled?

1 · Vocabulary

Word	Meaning	Example
recycle	to process waste materials so they can be used again	<i>We try to recycle plastic bottles at home.</i>
waste	materials that are no longer needed and are thrown away	<i>Food waste can be turned into compost.</i>
landfill	a place where waste is buried under the ground	<i>The city is looking for ways to reduce the amount of trash sent to the landfill.</i>
sustainable	using resources in a way that does not harm the environment for future generations	<i>Using reusable bags is a sustainable habit.</i>
compost	organic material that has decomposed and can be used as fertilizer	<i>She puts kitchen scraps in a bin to make compost for her garden.</i>
pollution	the presence of harmful substances in the environment	<i>Plastic pollution affects marine life.</i>
upcycle	to transform waste materials into something of higher value	<i>He upcycled old jeans into a stylish backpack.</i>
bin	a container for holding waste or recycling	<i>Please put the paper in the recycling bin, not the trash bin.</i>

2 · Discussion Questions

Take turns asking and answering — try to give a full answer, not just yes or no.

- 1 What items do you usually put in the recycling bin at home?
- 2 Do you separate your waste at school or work? Why or why not?
- 3 How often do you see recycling bins in your neighbourhood?
- 4 What is the most common material you recycle, and why?
- 5 Can you think of a product you use that could be made from recycled materials?
- 6 What are some reasons people might not recycle, even if they know it is good for the environment?
- 7 How does recycling help reduce pollution in your city?
- 8 Do you think the government should give rewards for people who recycle a lot? Explain your answer.
- 9 If everyone in the world recycled more, what changes could happen to the planet's resources?
- 10 What future technologies could make recycling easier or more effective, and what challenges might they bring?

3 · Extension

Try this: *Role-play: One student is a city council member proposing a new recycling program, and another is a resident who is skeptical. Each must present arguments and try to reach a compromise.*