

# America Recycles Day (ARD) November 15, 2019



## Earn an America Recycles Day prize!

[America Recycles Day \(ARD\)](#), held every year on November 15, is a national campaign to raise awareness about the benefits of recycling and buying products made with recycled materials.

This activity packet is a fun way to reward children and teens that have shown an interest in recycling and other environmental issues. Hands-on learning is an effective way to develop environmentally responsible habits.

This packet contains all the information you'll need for your school, scout troop, or youth group:

- Exercises for receiving a prize
- List of additional activities to choose from
- Recycled-content prize order information
- Paper making instructions

To earn an America Recycles Day prize, it is recommended that youth complete the required exercises and three additional activities. You can set the program deadline for whenever you wish.

**Questions? Contact Matt Riggs at (816) 701-8313 or  
[mriggs@marc.org](mailto:mriggs@marc.org)**

# America Recycles Day

## Exercises 1 – 7

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. 🍁 List at least three different ways to reduce or reuse paper:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

2. 🍁 List six different items that can be recycled:

- |    |    |
|----|----|
| 1. | 4. |
| 2. | 5. |
| 3. | 6. |

3. 🍁 Explain why it is important to reduce, reuse, recycle, and buy recycled, OR older students may explain the difference between source reduction and reuse.

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4. 🍁 Name a way each of these items can be reused instead of throwing them away.

- ◆ Cardboard Box \_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ Plastic Milk Carton \_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ Glass Jar \_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ Wooden Board \_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ Plastic Bag \_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ Newspaper \_\_\_\_\_

5. 🍁 Find out where your nearest recycling center is located and write the address below:

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6. 🍁 Find out what items are accepted for recycling at your recycling center.

- |    |     |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6.  |
| 2. | 7.  |
| 3. | 8.  |
| 4. | 9.  |
| 5. | 10. |

7. 🍁 *If you have curbside recycling at home, list what items are accepted:*

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***Now, it's time to choose three activities listed on the following pages.  
Please share your results. Thank you.***

**HAVE FUN!**



# Additional America Recycles Day Activities Listed By Grade Levels

**Instructions:** Each child can *choose and complete three activities*. Depending on age group and activity, parent, teacher or group leader may feel free to work with youth as a group to complete activities.

## 1. America Recycles Day Pledge All Grades

Pledge to recycle and close the recycling loop by buying products with recycled content (buy recycled). Pledges can be made online at <https://americarecyclesday.org/pledge/>.

## 2. Do ONE of the following:

- |                   |                                                                                                           |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>All Grades</b> | Make paper (see attached instructions)                                                                    |
| <b>All Grades</b> | Create a recycled art sculpture from "trash"                                                              |
| <b>3-12 Grade</b> | Write a poem about reduce, reuse, and recycling                                                           |
| <b>6-12 Grade</b> | Create and display an environmental awareness exhibit at a local mall, school, library or community event |

## ACTIVITIES 3-4 All Grades

### 3. List three ways you as an individual can help the environment in your community, at home, and at school.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### 4. Visit one of the four following locations and describe your experience:

**Landfill** (find out where our trash goes when we throw away)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Recycling drop-off center** (offer to volunteer at the center a few hours and learn a lot!)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Material Recovery Facility-MRF** (find out how what happens to your recyclables)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Reuse Store** (Visit a local reuse center or thrift shop in your community)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ACTIVITY 5      1-8 Grade**

**5. Complete math problems for appropriate grade. Show work. (See pages 9-10.)**

**ACTIVITIES 6-7      3-12 Grade**

**6. If your school has a recycling program, develop ways to educate the school and increase participation in the program.**

List some ideas or things you did:

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**7. For one day pick up litter from a local park, school, or other common area.**

Separate the trash from the recyclables. Describe your experience:

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**ACTIVITIES 8-11      6-12 Grade**

**8. Complete the America Recycles Day Crossword Puzzle. (See page 11.)**

**9. Develop a project plan that would help solve an environmental problem.**

Reduce an environmental impact or increase environmental awareness in your community. Include plans for a specific project that *could* be done by your class or troop. Describe the project:

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**10. Imagine you manage your own supermarket.**

What are some things you can do to reduce the amount of waste caused by the products you sell?

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Visit your local supermarket and see what things they do such as recycle cardboard or compost produce waste. List five things you observed.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

**11. Visit a local supermarket or office supply store and find fifteen items that contain recycled-content.** List percentage and type of recycled-content material.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Percentage (%) Recycled Content</b>	<b>Type of Material</b>
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- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.

**ACTIVITIES 12-14**

**9-12 Grade**

**12. Identify and briefly describe the work of three organizations through which you could volunteer to benefit our environment. Volunteer at least one hour with one of these organizations.**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**13. Perform a recycling or waste reduction experiment.**

Name your experiment and describe the results:

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**14. Identify and discuss three possible careers in the field of environmental science.**

Describe the type of education you would need to pursue these careers.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

# America Recycles Day

## Math Problems for Grades 1-8

### Easy (first grade)

1. Tom has 10 cans. He takes six to the recycling center. Draw a picture and write a number sentence to show how many cans Tom has left.
2. Molly had eight pounds of newspapers. She took half of them to the recycling center. Draw a picture and write a number sentence to show how many pounds of newspapers were recycled.

### Easy (second grade)

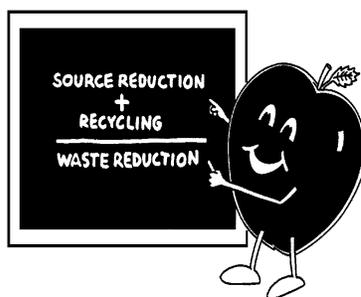
1. Kevin has 27 glass jars. Eleven of them are brown, four are green, and 12 of them are clear. The recycling center only accepts brown and clear glass for recycling. Draw a picture and write a number sentence to show how many glass jars Kevin can take to be recycled.
2. Sally and Dan are sorting their recyclables. They take the aluminum cans to the recycling center. The man at the recycling center pays them  $\$1.50$  for their cans. They decide to share the money evenly. How much money does each person receive?

### Easy (third grade)

1. The recycling center pays 25 cents per pound for aluminum cans. Jan took seven pounds of aluminum cans to be recycled. How much money did Jan earn at the recycling center?
2. If the average person throws away four pounds of garbage every day, how many pounds of garbage does one person throw away in one year (365 days)?

### Easy (fourth grade)

1. If 10 percent of the money you spend on groceries is for packaging and you spend  $\$75$  at the grocery store, how much money was spent on packaging?
2. Bob made  $\$1.60$  by recycling aluminum cans. He wants to buy a drink and a candy bar at the store. A drink costs 50 cents and a candy bar costs 45 cents. How much money will Bob have left?



### **Moderate (fifth grade)**

1. Monica pays \$9.50 per month for trash service. She is allowed to have two barrels of trash per week. Monica decides to start recycling and only sets out one barrel of trash each week. By having only one barrel of trash each week, the cost of her trash service decreases by 30 percent. How much does Monica pay for trash service now?
2. Stan, Frank, and Tony are on the baseball team. They need to raise \$150 for new uniforms. They have an aluminum can collection at their school. Each week they make \$25 at the recycling center from the cans they collect. How long will it take them to raise enough money for their new uniforms?

### **Moderate (sixth grade)**

1. Approximately 30 percent of our garbage is paper or paper products. If the average person throws away 1,460 pounds of trash a year, how many pounds of this trash is paper or paper products?
2. Americans throw away 2.5 million plastic bottles every hour. How many plastic bottles are thrown away in one day in America?

### **Moderate (seventh grade)**

1. Considering that one tree produces 117 pounds of paper, if your school sends 5,850 pounds of paper to the recycling center, how many trees would be saved by recycling?
2. Twice a month, Carol takes 24 pounds of aluminum cans to the recycling center. The recycling center pays 28 cents a pound. How much money will Carol earn in a year?

### **Moderate (eighth grade)**

1. Approximately 11 percent of municipal solid waste is yard waste (grass clippings, branches, leaves). If the average household throws away 5,520 pounds of solid waste each year, how much trash would it throw away each year by composting yard waste?
2. The average American uses 580 pounds of paper each year. If you recycle 4.5 pounds of newspapers each week, 11 pounds of magazines each year, and 23 pounds of paper each month, how many pounds of paper will you send to the landfill in one year after recycling?

# America Recycles Day

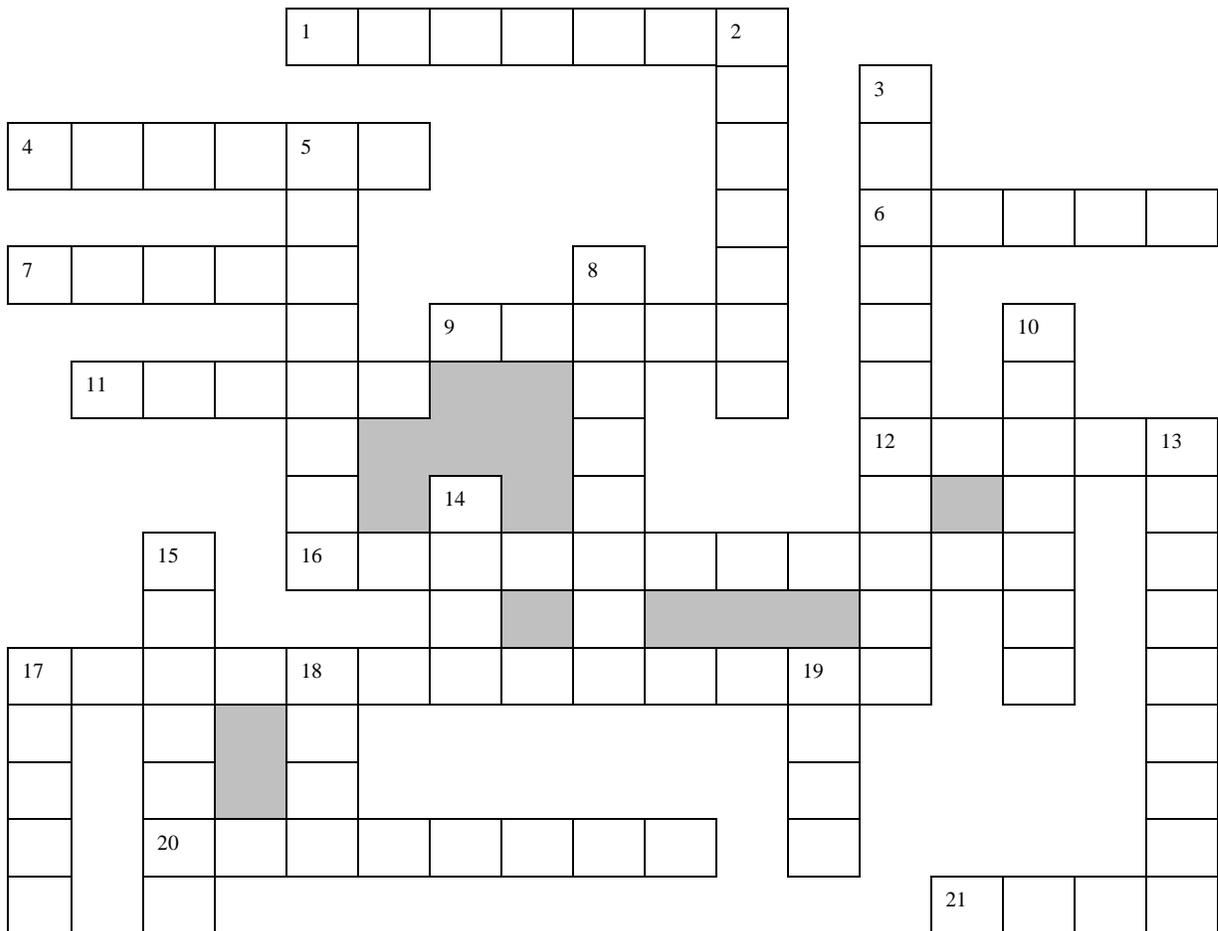
## Solid Waste Crossword Puzzle for Grades 6-12

### ACROSS

1. decomposition which occurs in the presence of oxygen
4. cut down the amount of waste created
6. a recyclable material
7. a recyclable material
9. a recyclable material
11. to use a product again without remanufacturing
12. dry waste
16. everything that surrounds us
17. a microscopic living thing
20. a way to dispose of waste by burying it in a carefully prepared area of land
21. a recyclable, used with 7 across

### DOWN

2. a mixture of decomposing organic matter used to improve the soil
3. the flow of trash: from the source to its final end use or disposal
5. term for collecting recyclables in front of homes
8. single-celled organisms
10. a material that is recycled in some places
13. waste that is harmful is \_\_\_\_\_
14. how long some waste lasts, for \_\_\_\_\_
15. to process waste material for manufacturing use
17. a group of recyclable materials including steel and aluminum
18. unsafe method of disposal, \_\_\_\_\_ dump
19. upper layer of earth



# America Recycles Day

## Solid Waste Crossword Puzzle Answers

Across: 1 aerobic  
4 reduce  
6 steel  
7 paper  
9 glass  
11 reuse  
12 trash  
16 environment  
17 microorganism  
20 landfill  
21 news

Down: 2 compost  
3 waste stream  
5 curbside  
8 bacteria  
10 plastic  
13 hazardous  
14 ever  
15 recycle  
17 metal  
18 open  
19 soil

## **America Recycles Day Prize Order Information**

To find recycled-content prizes, search online for “recycled-content products.”  
You can also choose from many products offered by the following vendors:

- [Adapt Consulting, Inc.](#)
- [Signature Marketing](#)
- [Target Marketing Group](#)

# Making Recycled Paper

## Materials Needed:

- Waste paper of various grades and colors (white or colored bond, construction, crepe, notebook)
- Screens – any window screen (nylon works the best), cut into the size of your choice (tape the edges for safety)
- Sponges and rags
- Blender
- Plastic tub or bucket
- Stack of old newspapers, divided into sections
- Additives (optional) – Dryer lint, seeds, feathers, string, dried flowers, etc. can be pressed into the pulp when pressing out the water.

## Making the Paper:

1. About two 8 ½ x 11" sheets equal one piece of recycled paper. Tear waste paper into small strips and tear small strips into small squares. Fill a blender about ½ full with the paper scraps and then cover them with water (an inch or two past the top of the paper).
2. Run the blender on high until the contents are well blended and mushy. The wet paper pieces are called pulp, and the mixture is called a slurry.
3. Place the screen over the plastic tub and pour the slurry from the blender onto the screen. Shake the screen back and forth a bit to distribute the slurry evenly. Then, lift the screen up by spreading your hand underneath it, and let the water drain in the tub for a few seconds.
4. If you will be pressing items into the paper, add them now. Place another piece of screen over the paper pulp and press the two screens together between your hands, squeezing the water into the tub. Dab a sponge over the screen to help squeeze the excess water out.
5. Lay the screens enclosing the paper pulp on a section of newspaper. The newspaper will help absorb water out of the new piece of paper. With the sponge on top of the screen, press water out of the paper, flattening the pulp as you go. You can also use the edge of the sponge (or your fingertips) to shape the paper onto the screen.
6. When you have pressed most of the water out of your paper with the sponge, carefully lift off the top screen and, with a flat hand supporting the entire screen, hold the bottom screen with pulp as you turn the newspaper stack over, exposing the dry side. Set the screened unit, pulp side down, on the dry side of the newspaper stack.
7. Carefully peel away the screen from the new paper. Allow paper to air dry overnight or in a sunny place for a few hours.

Enjoy your recycled paper by using it to make cards, picture mats or other beautiful craft projects!