

12 POINTS**LESSON PLAN:**

DAILY RECYCLING FACTS

(Image: NARA, 196336.)

INTRODUCTION

There's no better way to get in the habit of getting in the scrap than learning a little about recycling and energy conservation each day. Spend 50 days in your classroom revealing a new recycling fact. We'll provide the first 25 facts, but then it's up to your students to research and find their own. This would be perfect as a bell ringer activity.

MATERIALS

- + 25 recycling facts
- + Fact-log worksheet

OBJECTIVES

Through an analysis of the provided facts, students should display the knowledge and ability to conduct their own research and find reliable facts related to recycling as it operates today. This exercise will ask students to combine a critical understanding of recycling programs with their own research skills in order to build on the provided material.

TIME REQUIREMENT

1 class period

KEY THEMES



**ENERGY
CONSERVATION**



SCRAPPING

COMMON CORE STANDARDS

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.1.B

Provide logically ordered reasons that are supported by facts and details.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.2.B

Develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.5

Describe how a text presents information (e.g., sequentially, comparatively, causally).

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.8

Distinguish among fact, opinion, and reasoned judgment in a text.

PROCEDURES

1. Write one recycling and one energy conservation fact on the board as bell ringers each day for 50 days. Use the Museum's facts provided for the first 25 days.
2. Then, assign each student 1-2 facts for the remaining 25 days. They need to research and present the fact on the board for their designated day.
3. Have students record these facts in their "Recycling 50" logs.

ASSESSMENT

Through a discussion of the provided facts, students should demonstrate an understanding of how recycling operates and connect that analysis to the broader significance of recycling processes conducted today. As they research and gather their own facts, students should display an understanding of the research process, making sure to use reliable sources to support the facts that they gather.

RECYCLING FACTS

1. Recycling one ton of paper (2,000 pounds) can save 17 trees.
2. The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) estimates that 75 percent of American waste is recyclable, but we only recycle about 30 percent of it.
3. The Container Recycling Institute (CRI) estimates that the 36 billion aluminum cans sent to landfills last year had a scrap value of more than \$600 million.
4. We generate 21.5 million tons of food waste each year. If we composted that food, it would reduce the same amount of greenhouse gas as taking two million cars off the road.
5. We use over 80 billion aluminum pop cans every year.
6. Producing each week's Sunday newspapers requires cutting down 500,000 trees.
7. The amount of wood and paper we throw away each year is enough to heat 50,000,000 homes for 20 years.
8. The average American uses seven trees a year in paper, wood, and other products made from trees. This amounts to about 2,000,000,000 trees per year!
9. Americans throw away 25,000,000,000 Styrofoam coffee cups every year.
10. A modern glass bottle would take 4,000 years or more to decompose—and even longer if it is in the landfill.
11. The United States is the #1 trash-producing country in the world at 1,609 pounds per person per year. This means that 5 percent of the world's people generate 40 percent of the world's waste.
12. On average, it costs \$30 per ton to recycle trash, \$50 to send it to the landfill, and \$65-\$75 to incinerate it.
13. One-third of the water used in most homes is flushed down the toilet
14. A single quart of motor oil, if disposed of improperly, can contaminate up to 2,000,000 gallons of fresh water.
15. A running faucet wastes 2.5 gallons of water each minute.
16. Every year we dispose of 24 million tons of leaves and grass clippings rather than composting to conserve landfill space.
17. A full bath tub uses 70 gallons of water. A 5-minute shower only uses 10-25 gallons.
18. Turning of the tap while brushing your teeth in the morning and before bedtimes can save up to 8 gallons per day. This is a savings of 240 gallons per month.
19. A toilet made in 1992 or earlier uses up to 60 percent more water per flush than newer high efficiency toilets.
20. Paper products make up the largest part (approximately 40 percent) of our trash.
21. About one-third of an average landfill consists of packaging material.
22. Making recycled paper instead of new paper uses 64 percent less energy.
23. Americans throw away enough aluminum every month to rebuild our entire commercial air fleet.
24. Every \$1,000 of fast food sales creates 200 pounds of trash.
25. Between 5-15 percent of what we throw away contains hazardous chemicals.

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

RECYCLING FACTS LOG

Directions: Listen to the daily recycling fact and record it here in your log. By then end, you will have gathered 50 facts about, recycling, conservation, and the environment to share with others.

1. _____	26. _____
2. _____	27. _____
3. _____	28. _____
4. _____	29. _____
5. _____	30. _____
6. _____	31. _____
7. _____	32. _____
8. _____	33. _____
9. _____	34. _____
10. _____	35. _____
11. _____	36. _____
12. _____	37. _____
13. _____	38. _____
14. _____	39. _____
15. _____	40. _____
16. _____	41. _____
17. _____	42. _____
18. _____	43. _____
19. _____	44. _____
20. _____	45. _____
21. _____	46. _____
22. _____	47. _____
23. _____	48. _____
24. _____	49. _____
25. _____	50. _____