

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Reasons and Evidence

Read the short story and answer each question.



Why Recycling Makes a Difference

Every Saturday, Olivia and her big brother sorted bottles, paper, and cans into different bins. At first, Olivia thought it was a boring chore. "Why can't we just throw everything away?" she asked. Her brother smiled and said, "Recycling helps the Earth."

There are many reasons why recycling matters. One important reason is that it helps **reduce trash**. When people throw everything away, it ends up in a landfill. Landfills take up space and can pollute the soil and air. Recycling keeps trash out of landfills.

Another reason is that recycling **saves natural resources**. For example, when we recycle paper, fewer trees have to be cut down. When we recycle cans and bottles, we use less metal and plastic. This helps protect forests and wildlife.

Recycling also uses **less energy** than making new products. It takes more power to create new cans than to reuse old ones. Saving energy helps fight climate change.

Now, Olivia understands that recycling isn't just a chore—it's a way to care for the planet. She even made a poster for her classroom that said, "One Small Action Can Make a Big Change!"



Name: _____

Why Recycling Makes a Difference

1. Why is recycling better than throwing things away?

- A. It takes up more space.
- B. It helps reduce trash in landfills.
- C. It creates more garbage.
- D. It makes food taste better.

2. What is one reason recycling helps the Earth?

- A. It helps people sleep longer.
- B. It keeps birds inside.
- C. It protects forests and wildlife.
- D. It makes computers faster.

3. Fill in the blank:

When people recycle paper, fewer _____ need to be cut down.

4. What are three reasons the author gives to explain why recycling makes a difference?

5. What do you think would happen if no one recycled? Use a reason from the story to support your answer.



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: L

Lexile Level: 355L-505L

Grade Level: 2nd Grade, Middle of the Year

Genre: Informational

Introducing the Text

"Today's nonfiction story explores the topic of **recycling** and why it's important. As we read, we'll look for the author's main point and the **reasons** they give to support it. We'll also think about how small choices, like recycling, can make a big impact."

Vocabulary: recycling, landfill, resources, protect, energy

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever recycled before? What did you recycle?
 2. What do you know about landfills or trash?
 3. Why might people care about protecting nature?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What does the author say about landfills?
 2. How does recycling help protect animals and forests?
 3. Why does recycling use less energy?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What is the author's main point in this text?
 2. Which reason from the text do you think is the strongest? Why?
 3. What are some ways you and your family could start recycling more?
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Activity Idea

Invite students to create a "**Recycling Action Plan**" for their home or classroom. They can draw a simple chart with columns for paper, plastic, and cans, then track what they recycle for one week. Have them write a sentence at the bottom: "This helps the Earth because..." to connect the activity back to the author's reasons.

