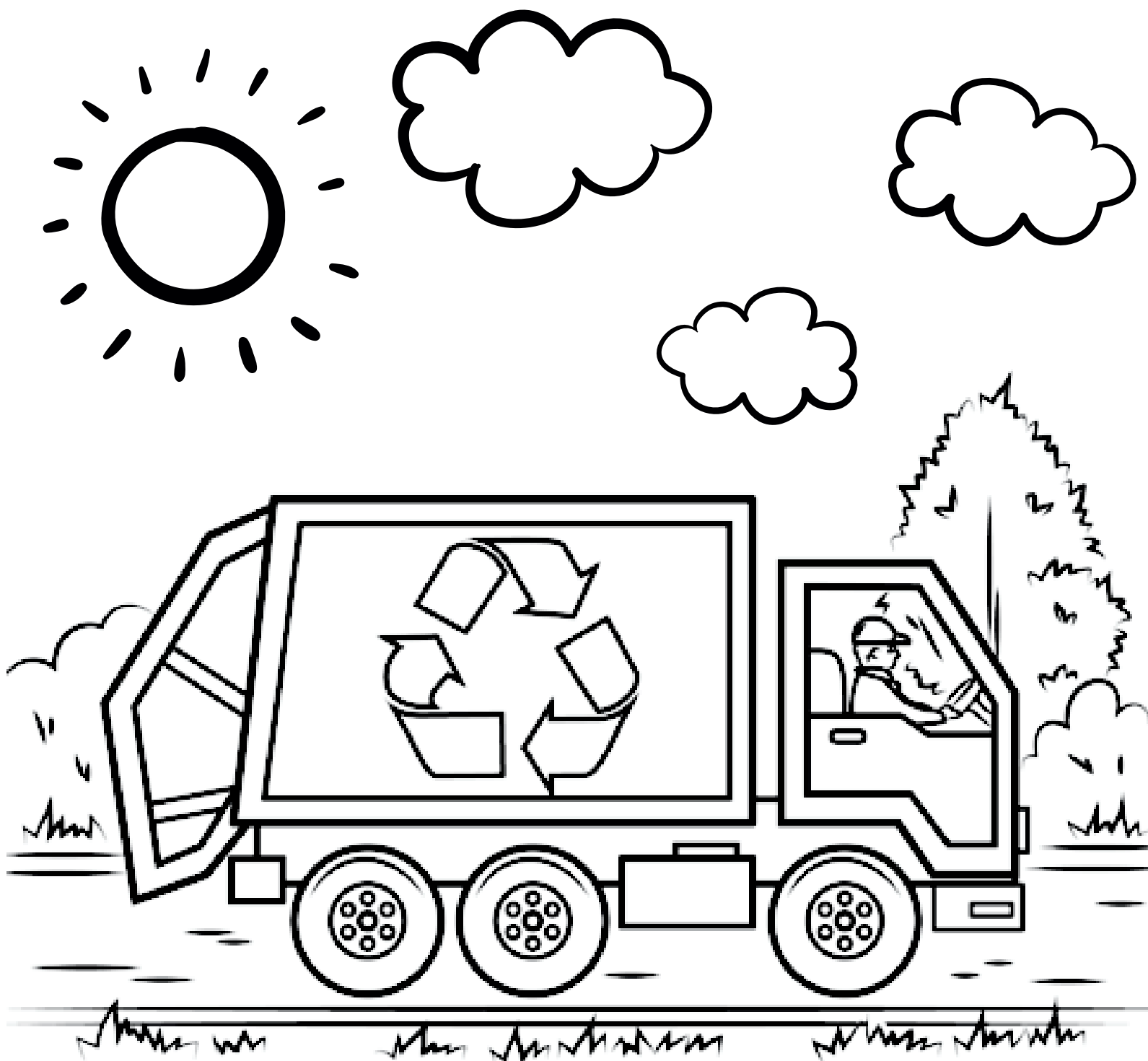


The



Recycling  
Activity  
Book!

Color me!



# Why Recycle?

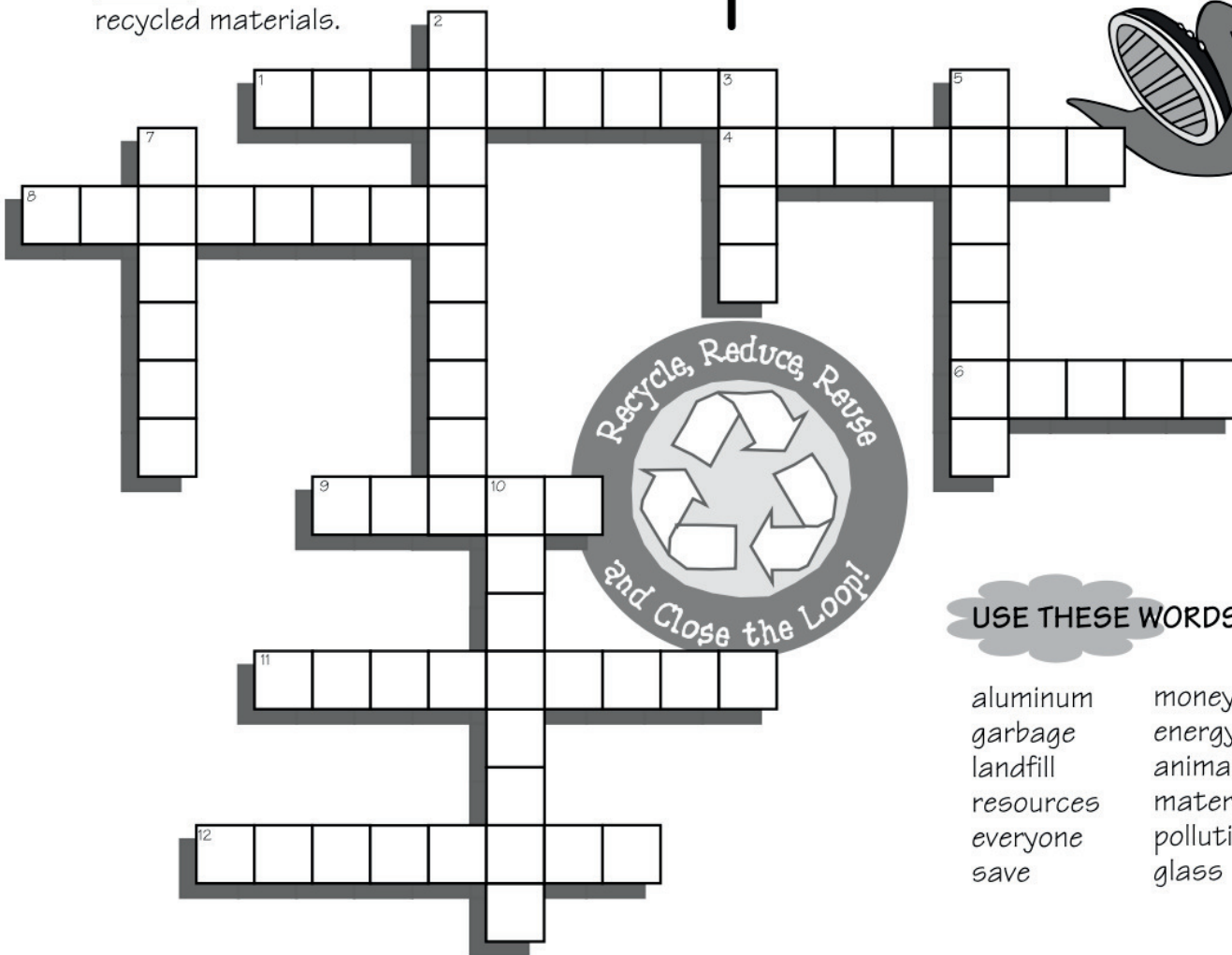
Recycling helps us preserve our environment and keeps garbage out of our landfills. There are also a lot of other reasons to recycle. Complete the crossword to find out why we should recycle.

## ACROSS

1. Recycling saves natural \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Recycling, instead of littering, protects \_\_\_\_\_.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ never wears out, it can be recycled forever.
8. Recycling helps keep fewer materials from going to the \_\_\_\_\_. Many are already full which means we need to find new places to put garbage.
9. You can earn \_\_\_\_\_ by turning in your beverage containers at the recycling center.
11. Recycling lets us reuse \_\_\_\_\_ instead of having to get more from the Earth all over again.
12. It takes 20 times more energy to make an \_\_\_\_\_ can from new materials than from recycled materials.

## DOWN

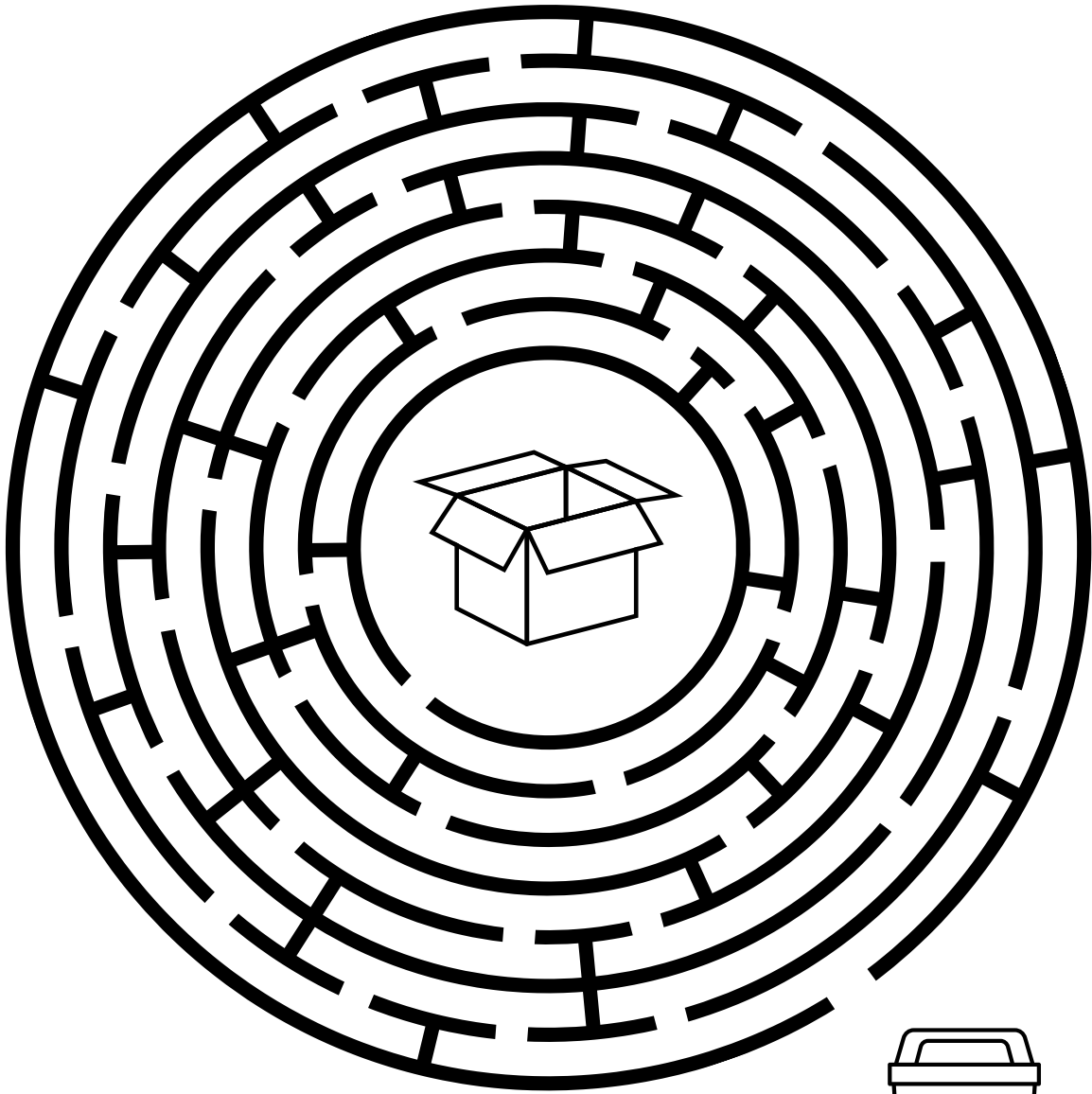
2. Recycling creates less \_\_\_\_\_ in the air.
3. If we create less garbage, our communities can \_\_\_\_\_ landfill space.
5. Taking things that would be \_\_\_\_\_ and reusing them is a great way to help save the Earth.
7. It takes less \_\_\_\_\_ to make a new product from recycled materials than it does from raw materials.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ must recycle in order to make the world a better place.



## USE THESE WORDS

aluminum	money
garbage	energy
landfill	animals
resources	materials
everyone	pollution
save	glass

Follow the maze to help recycle this cardboard box!





# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE!

Turn the page upside down to reveal answers!

① Can plastic grocery bags be recycled?

ONLY at special recycling locations!  
Don't put them in your curbside bin!  
Instead, take them back to the grocery  
store to see if they recycle them!

② How long does it take a plastic bottle  
to decompose?

450 years!

③ What do food scraps, paper napkins,  
and plant trimmings have in common?

They can be composted!

④ How long does it take a recycled  
aluminum can to be back on a  
grocery store shelf?

30 days!

⑤ How much money does the state of  
Oklahoma spend on picking up litter  
each year?

More than \$7 million!

# Aluminum

**Aluminum** is made from a natural resource called **Bauxite Ore**. Making products from recycled aluminum saves energy and Bauxite Ore.

There is no limit to the number of times aluminum can be melted down and reused... that means aluminum can be recycled and reused over and over again!



It takes 80 - 100 years for an aluminum can to decompose (break down and disappear) in our landfills and dumps.



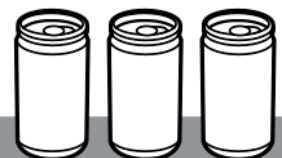
Aluminum cans can be recycled into: soda cans, pie plates, thumbtacks, license plates, aluminum foil, and many other items.



Recycling one aluminum can saves enough electricity to operate a TV for up to 3 hours.

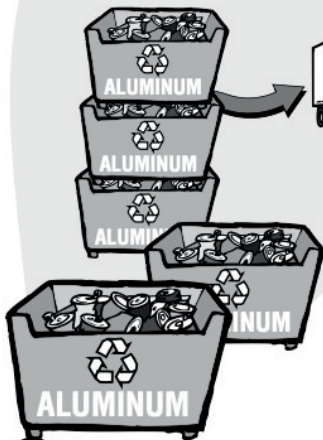


In the year 2000, Californians recycled 13,500 aluminum beverage containers every minute.



# How Aluminum is Recycled

**2** The aluminum cans are transported to a processing facility where they use a big magnet to remove other types of metal cans while they go down the conveyor belt.



**3** The aluminum is washed, shredded and turned into aluminum chips.

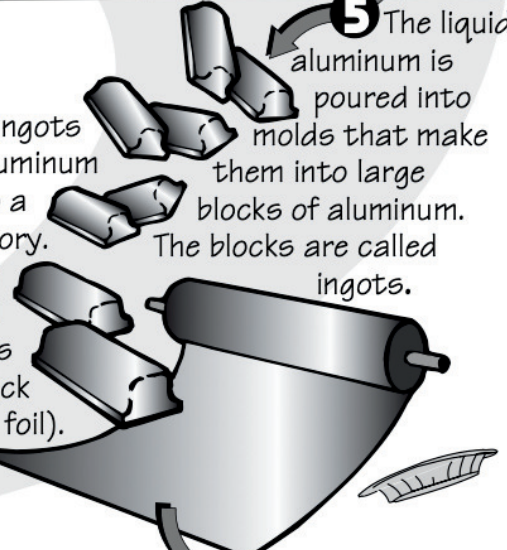


**4** The aluminum chips are melted in a large furnace.

**5** The liquid aluminum is poured into molds that make them into large blocks of aluminum. The blocks are called ingots.

**6** The ingots of aluminum are taken to a can-making factory.

There, the aluminum ingots are melted into rolls of flat sheets of aluminum (similar to thick aluminum foil).

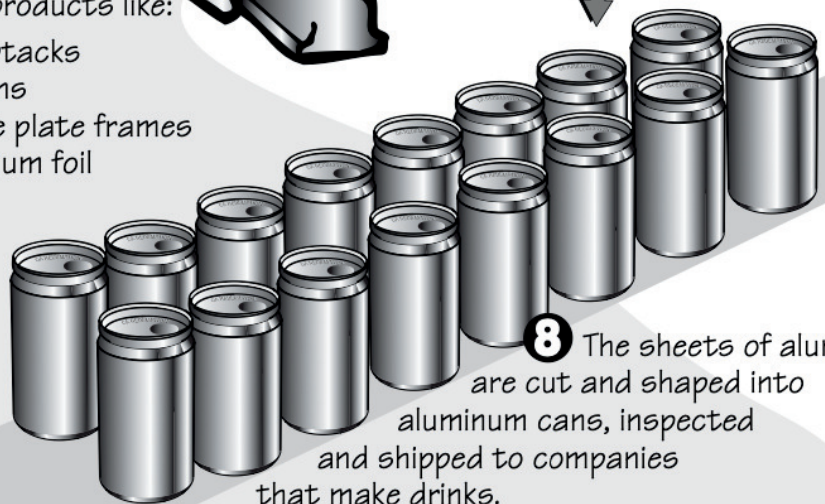


**7** Ingots are also sold to manufacturers of aluminum products. These manufacturers melt the ingots down for molding into new products like:

- thumbtacks
- pie pans
- license plate frames
- aluminum foil



*The aluminum beverage can returns to the grocer's shelf as a new, filled can in as little as 90 days after being recycled.*



**8** The sheets of aluminum are cut and shaped into aluminum cans, inspected and shipped to companies that make drinks.

Color me!





# Recycle Word Search

T F I D X T X A S T F U G G T S C P V A D D K  
F G O T N Z P A A F W Z F L E W E D D R C T E  
R G F H B Z R N S P T J Z A R I P K G L M Q E  
W L B X W R E Q R K L N H S D Q Z C X D Z T P  
L N W L B E D S T T U S J S U T I M B N O O O  
W I D A R O U F Y E C B W J R T X B T B Y F K  
H A T G S E C F S B M K B S S F A K C S Z B L  
Y G H T L T E U A Z S C L A T G V A H S B C A  
U D B L E I E E Z Q C D L Z C Z R G E G O F H  
K W U W N R D E C D O P W H F Y P Q C W D D O  
R D Y I D S F O J V I H C V W M W Y H U H A M  
U J E Y A W H D Y I B L X M W P D T S F E J A  
W D I H B V G C T T L X V Q L B R K M U L X B  
L X D F I Z S V M K Y G F S R A F Y W Z S P E  
U B D M N W U G K G A J P W E L Y N F W H Z A  
V V R E C Y C L E B G U L A F U Q T Q S E W U  
O C A R D B O A R D B A N N T M P O A W T J T  
Q V Q V C E M F L B Q X E U P I O R V Q B K I  
S N P F X Q P Q R J D N P H O N T P I T A Q F  
A F R Z G A O D Y V A V U X I U J K L V F A U  
A F Y B T W S M A W J A P P P M K U T N H D L  
A P E B L B T J U G Z K C S N K R X U N T V T  
H G F M M Z P E G Q Q X Z R T G F F N X J I R

**ALUMINUM**

**CARDBOARD**

**COMPOST**

**EARTH**

**GLASS**

**GREEN**

**LEND A BIN**

**LITTER**

**KEEP OKLAHOMA BEAUTIFUL**

**PLASTIC**

**RECYCLE**

**REDUCE**

**REUSE**

**TRASH**

**WASTE**

# Plastic

Recycled soda and water bottles are made from PET plastic. PET is short for Polyethylene Terephthalate (*pol-y-'Eth-yl-lene ter-'Eph-tha-late*).

You can identify PET Plastic containers by looking for this symbol



---

It can take up to 700 years for plastic to decompose (break down and disappear) in our landfills or dumps.



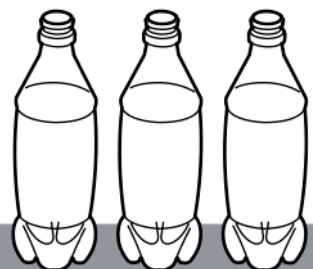
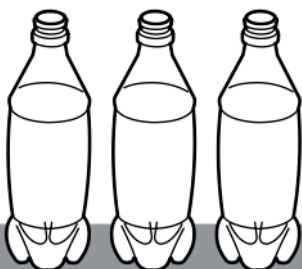
---

PET plastic can be recycled into; clothing, fiberfill for sleeping bags, stuffed animals, toys, rulers, and more!



---

Plastic bottles can be recycled and reused. Reuse your plastic bottles by filling them with water or juice and placing them in the freezer. Put one in your lunch box and it will double as an ice pack. At lunchtime, you'll have an ice-cold beverage! When you're done reusing your plastic bottle, recycle it!



# What happens to Recycled Plastic?

1

Plastic containers are brought to the recycling center where they are sorted by type and sometimes color. They are crushed together and formed into a huge cube or bale.



2

The bales of plastic are shipped to a plastics processing plant.

3

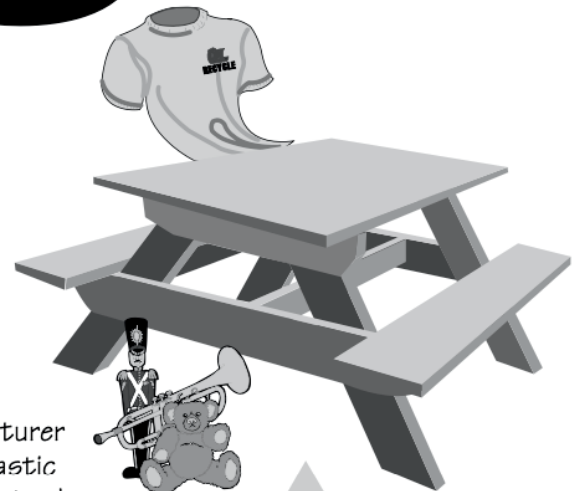
The plastic is broken apart and shredded into flakes or pellets and then cleaned.



5

The manufacturer melts the plastic flakes or pellets down for molding into new products like:

- fiberfill for sleeping bags
- plastic lumber
- containers for non-food products
- toys
- compost bins
- rulers
- T-shirts



4

The flakes or pellets are shipped to manufacturers of plastic goods.





# Recycling the letters to make words

Unscramble the words below to discover things that are commonly recycled to help reduce waste and keep our planet green!

1. GESSTABLLOST

---

2. ASSDCNAO

---

3. SEELAEXRBOC

---

4. RSSLJASAG

---

5. ESOXBIUJCE

---

6. LSLSCBOTATITPE

---

7. OEGGATSCNR

---

8. GSPBARPEA

---

9. SCOFONDA

---

10. ARMOLNITKSC

---

11. WAPNEERSPS

---

12. SEZAMNGIA

---

13. OBKOHPEONS

---

14. ACDOARBRD

---

PHONE BOOKS  
MAGAZINES  
CARDBOARD  
EGG CARTOONS

GLASS BOTTLES  
PLASTIC BOTTLES  
JUICE BOXES  
GLASS JARS

SODA CANS  
FOOD CANS  
PAPER BAGS  
CEREAL BOXES

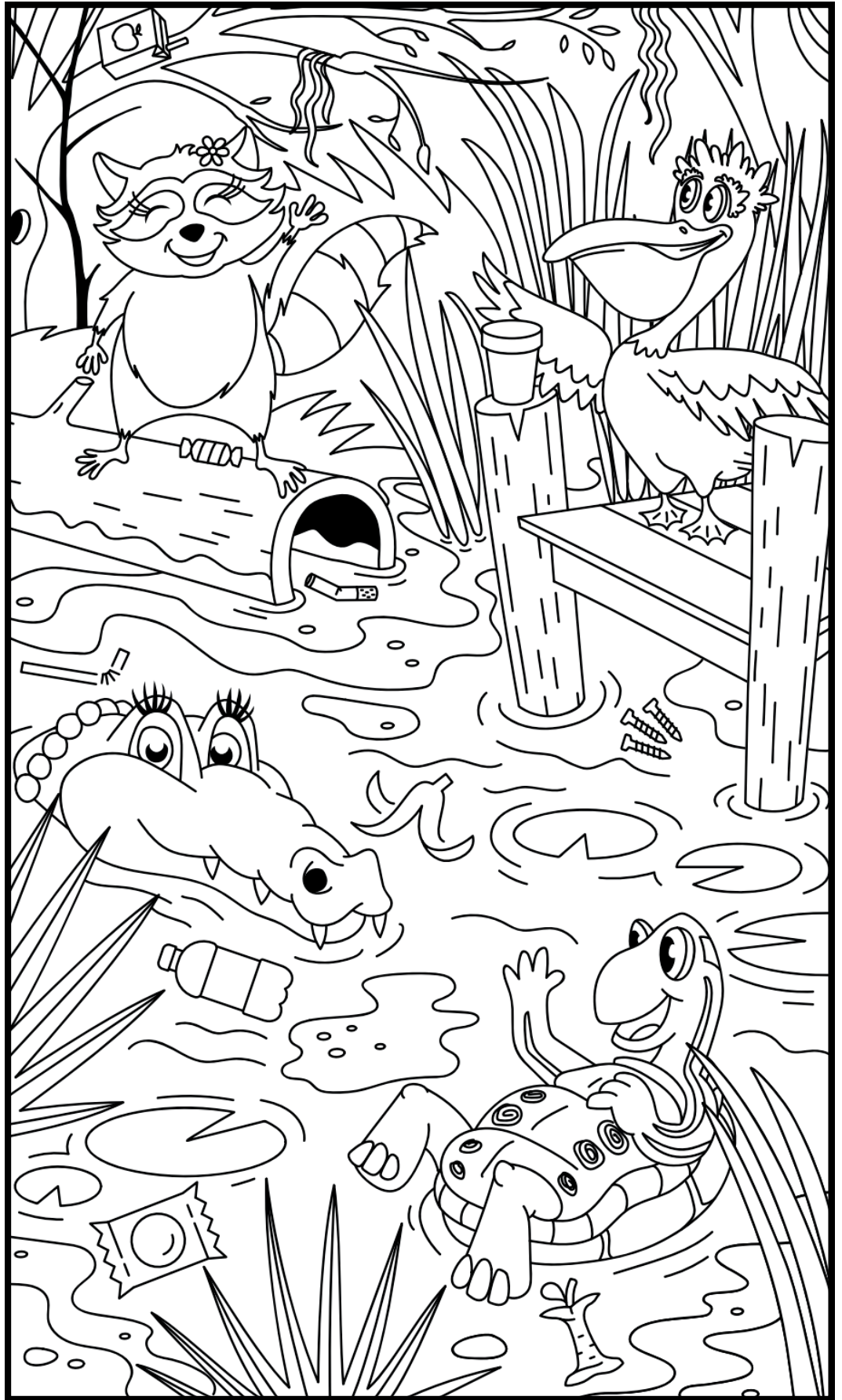
MILK CARTONS  
NEWSPAPERS

# LITTER SEARCH

Help find the litter that doesn't belong. **Circle the 10 of pieces of litter and color the scene when you're finished.**

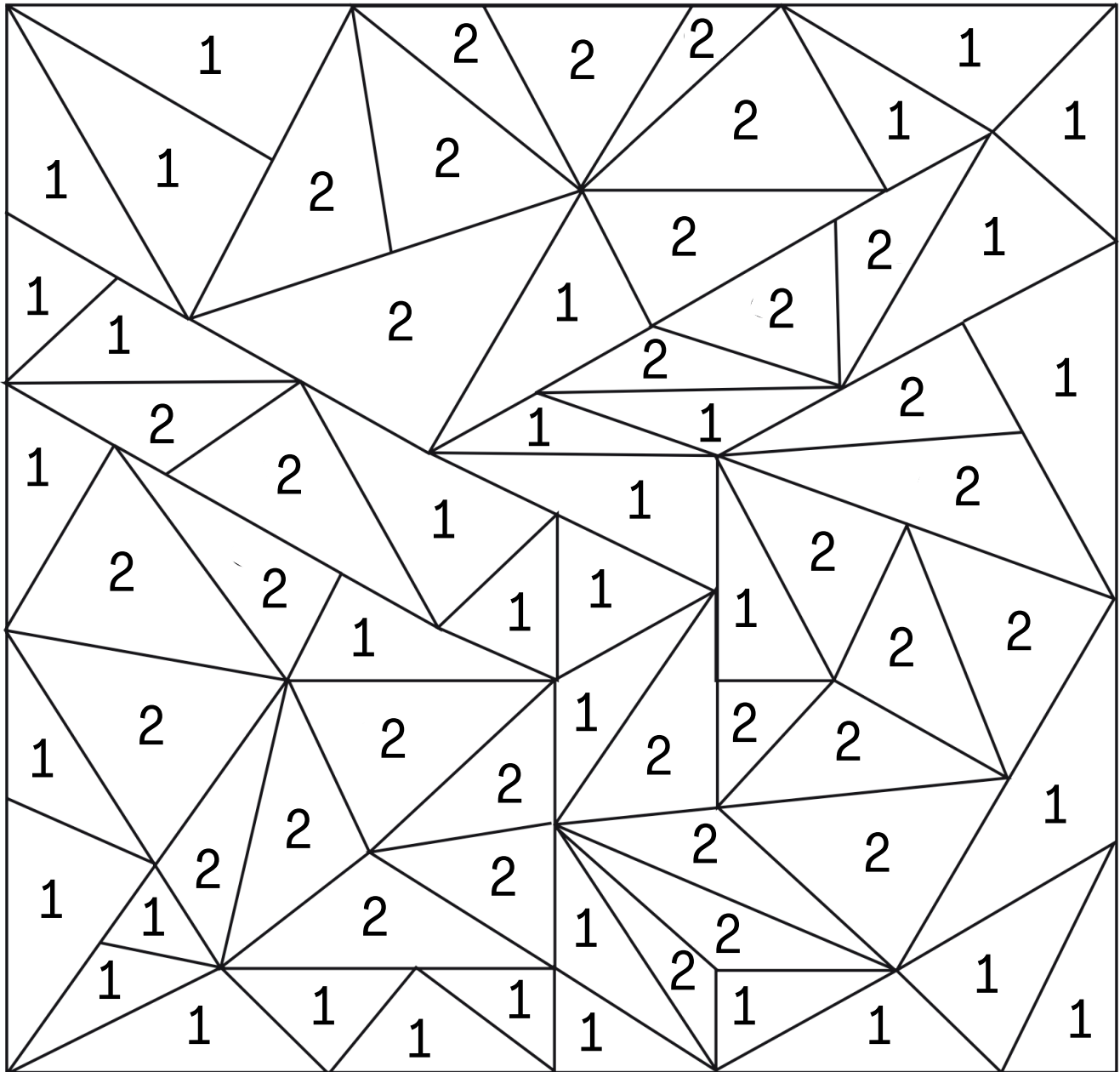
You should find the following items:

- apple core
- banana peel
- candy wrapper
- chip bag
- cigarette butt
- juice box
- plastic bottle
- screws
- straw
- styrofoam cup



# Color-By-Number

Color the areas to reveal the hidden symbol.





# Glass

**Glass** is made of soda ash, limestone and lots of sand. The mixture is put into a very hot furnace and when it melts, it turns into glass. Heating the furnace takes a lot of energy!

Glass can be recycled and used over and over again! This saves energy and natural resources! Recycled glass melts at a lower temperature than new materials, so it takes less energy to heat the furnace. In fact, most bottles and jars are made from recycled glass.



Glass takes over 1,000,000 (one million) years to decompose (breakdown and disappear) in our landfills or dumps.



Glass can be recycled into jars, bottles, jewelry, dishes, drinking glasses, coffee mugs and many other items!



Reuse your glass containers as a vase, pencil holder, or a container to hold a collection of things like buttons! When you're done reusing your glass container, recycle it!

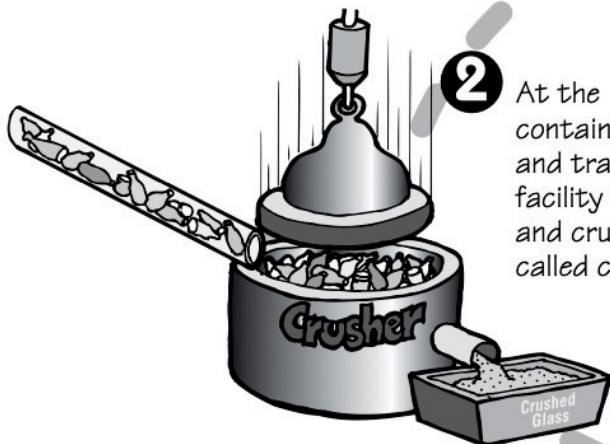


# Glass Recycling Process

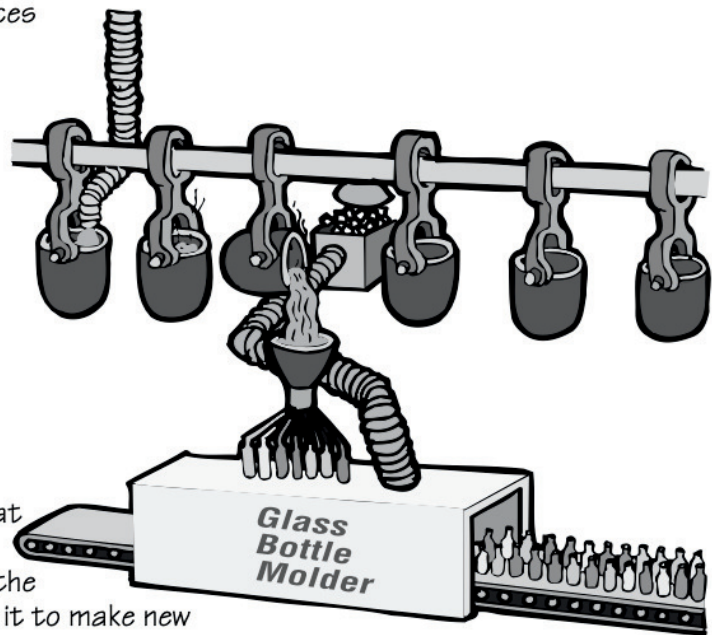
Have you ever thought about what happens to the glass bottles that you place into your curbside recycle bin or take to the recycling center to be recycled? Recycled glass can be used to make marbles, jars, bottles, plates, bowls, tile and more! This is how:



- 1** The glass bottles collected from your curbside bins are taken to the recycling center.



- 2** At the recycling center, the glass containers are sorted by color and transported to a processing facility where they are cleaned and crushed into tiny pieces called cullet.



- 3** Companies that make glass products buy the cullet and use it to make new products.

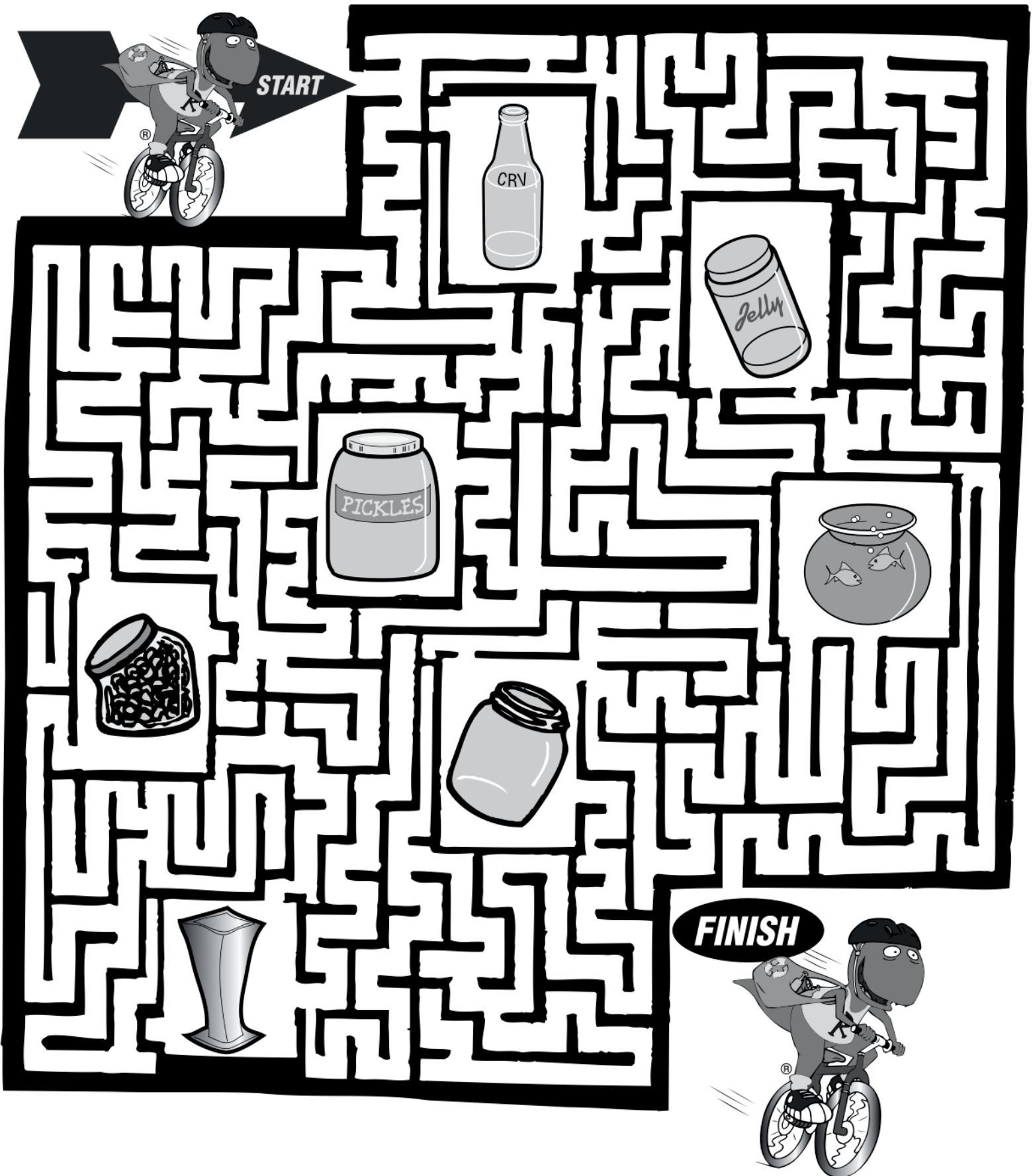


- 4** This cycle repeats itself again when we buy the new products, such as glass bottles, and recycle them.

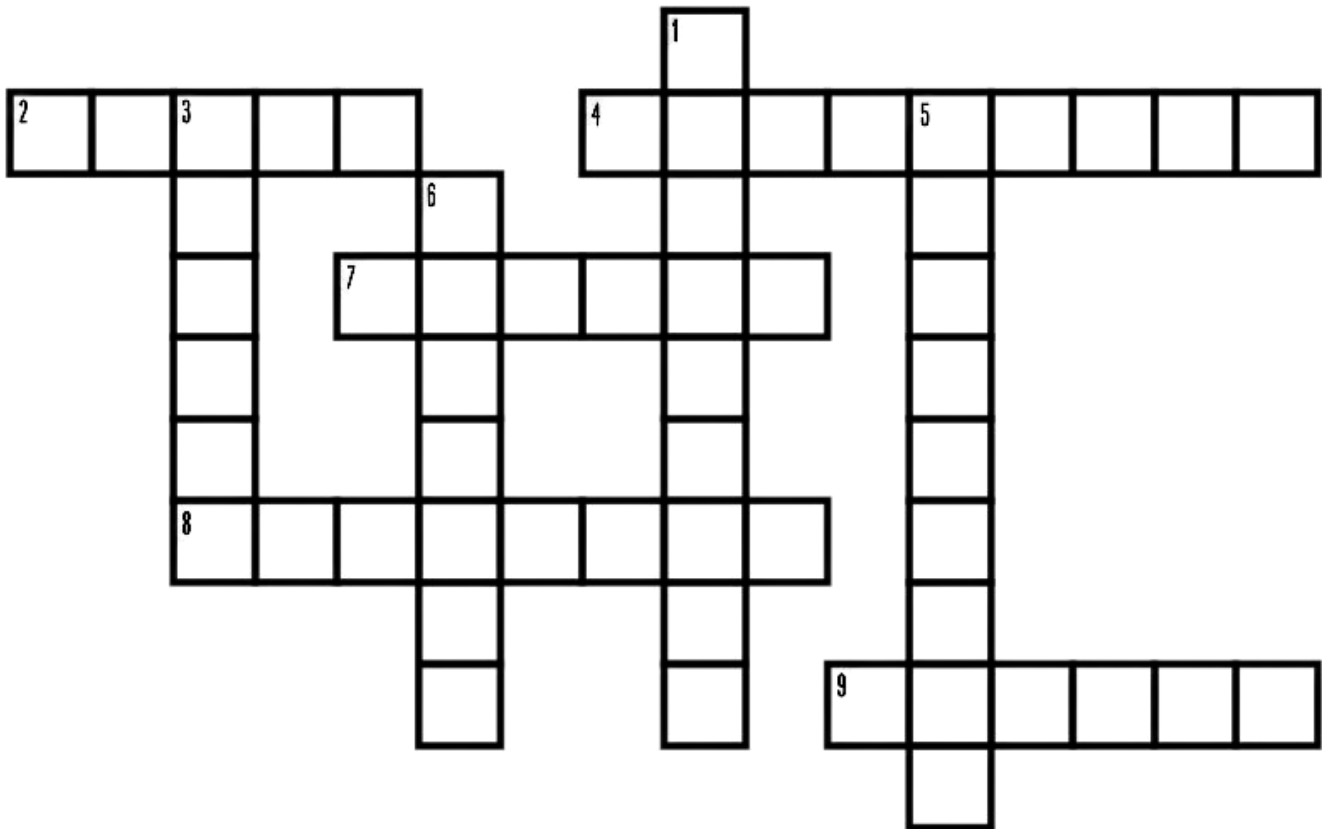


# Glass Maze

Find your way through the maze and collect the glass containers. These items are all made from recycled glass. Which one of these items can you take to the recycling center and redeem for money? What other ways can you reuse your glass containers?



# Recycle Crossword



## ACROSS

2. PURCHASING PRODUCTS MADE WITH RECYCLED MATERIALS IS A GREAT WAY TO GO \_\_\_\_ (GREEN)
4. BY RECYCLING THREE PLASTIC BOTTLES A MONTH, EACH HOUSEHOLD IN THE NATION CAN HELP DIVERT 23 MILLION POUNDS OF PLASTIC FROM \_\_\_\_ (LANDFILLS)
7. RECYCLING HELPS MAKE OUR \_\_\_\_ A CLEANER, GREENER PLACE (PLANET)
8. THIS GREEN HOLIDAY IS ON APRIL 22 EVERY YEAR: \_\_\_\_ (EARTH DAY)
9. RECYCLING JUST ONE ALUMINUM CAN SAVES ENOUGH \_\_\_\_ TO POWER A TELEVISION FOR UP TO FOUR HOURS (ENERGY)

## DOWN

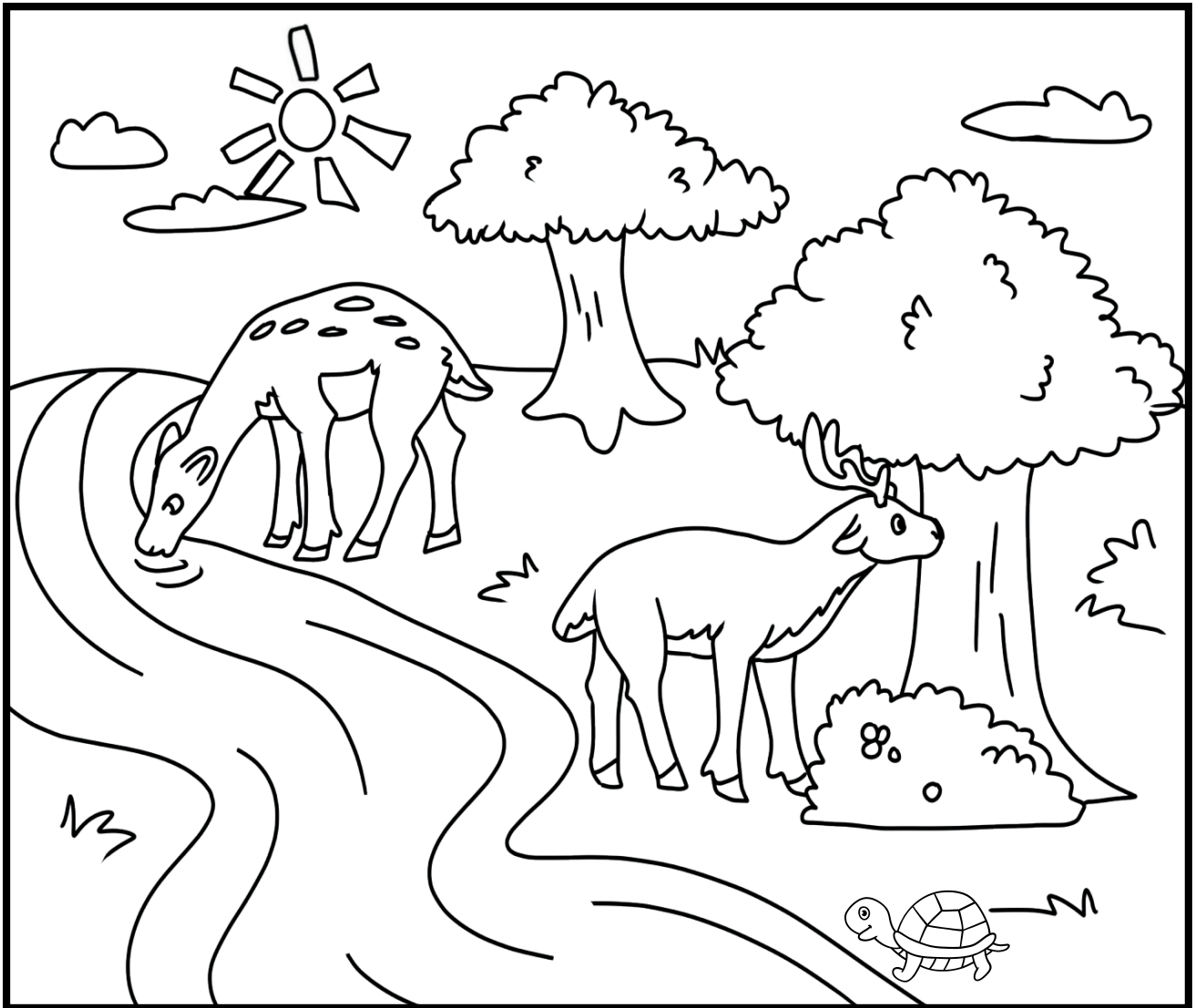
1. RECYCLED \_\_\_\_ OFTEN GO ON TO BECOME SECOND GENERATION PRODUCTS SUCH AS T-SHIRTS, BAGS AND NEW BOTTLES (MATERIALS)
3. \_\_\_\_ YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY BY INVITING THEM TO JOIN YOU IN YOUR RECYCLING EFFORTS (ENGAGE)
5. WE CAN HELP REDUCE OUR CARBON \_\_\_\_ AND MAKE AN IMPACT JUST BY MAKING RECYCLING A PART OF OUR EVERYDAY LIVES (FOOTPRINT)
6. YOU CAN RECYCLE ALUMINUM CANS AND \_\_\_\_ #1 PET OR PETE CONTAINERS THROUGH THE RECYCLE RALLY (PLASTIC)



# WHY DO WE NEED TO PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS?

Water is very important! We use it for many things. We drink it, wash our clothes with it, swim in it, and more!

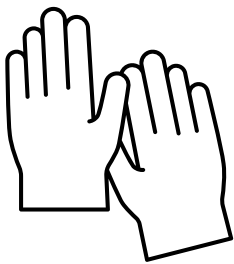
Our state's wildlife rely on our waterways too! If pollution or trash is on the ground when it rains, it can wash into our lakes, streams, and rivers, causing many problems for people and animals. We need to keep our water clean!



# BEFORE YOU BEGIN...

Gather your supplies and protective gear shown below. Next, take a photo of the area before and after to compare how it looks after you are done. Afterwards, share your photos on social media and tag @KeepOKBeautiful in the post!

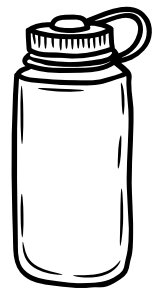
## YOU WILL NEED...



gloves



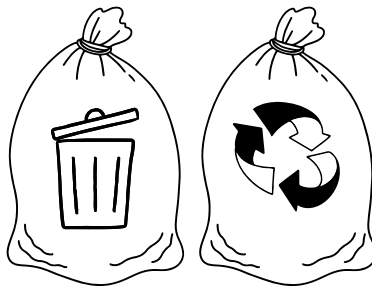
close-toed  
shoes



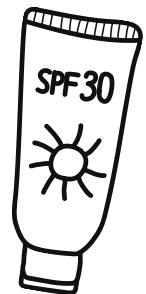
water bottle



hand  
sanitizer



separate bags for  
landfill and recycling



sunscreen

## SAFETY TIPS:

Be aware of your surroundings. Scan the area for bugs, animals, and hazardous plants. Stay away from traffic and railroad tracks. Wear bright-colored clothing to ensure you are seen. If the weather becomes bad or you become too hot, take a break or try another day. Kids under the age of 8 should always be accompanied by someone 16 or older.

# Clean-up Checklist

☐

ALUMINUM CAN

☐

FOOD WRAPPER

☐

PLASTIC BOTTLE

☐

PLASTIC UTENSIL

☐

CANDY WRAPPER

☐

PAPER BAG

☐

PLASTIC BAG

☐

PLASTIC STRAW

☐

STYROFOAM  
CONTAINER

☐

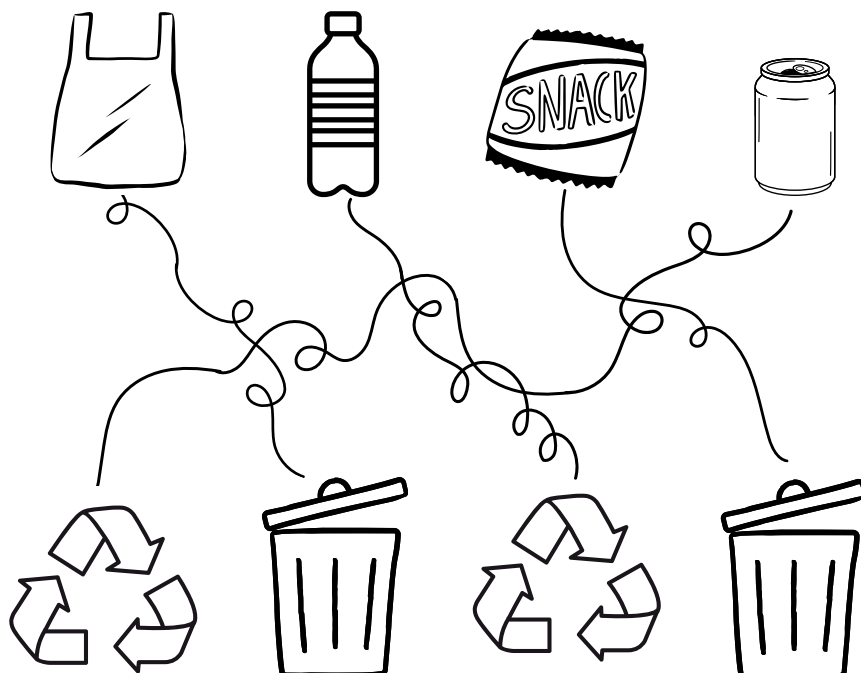
PAPER SCRAPS

What other items did you find?

---

---

---



# WORD SMASH

Unscramble these words about keeping our state litter-free, then copy the circled letters to reveal a secret message!

# HTSRA

# RTILTE

F U A L B I U T E

# A L C N E

# O A H L M A O K

# S E R T E

A W T S E

V R E I R

E C C R E Y L

K R P A

T S C O P M O

# BGRAGEA

S E R U E

# HREAT

# HITBAAT

LLTUIPOON

MEVNOTRIN

SECRET MESSAGE

Answers: trash, beautiful, Oklahoma, waste, recycle, compost, reuse, habitat, environment, litter, clean, trees, river, park, garbage, Earth, pollution  
Secret Message: Every litter bit hurts!

Secret Message: Every litter bit hurts!

USE

LESS

STUFF

