

Recycling Coordinator **Community Helpers**

Grade Levels:

Grades K-6

Subject Areas:

Social Studies

U.S. Geography & Cultures

U.S. History

Synopsis:

An enthusiastic recycling coordinator steps viewers through the recycling process for cans, plastics and newspapers, emphasizing the useful products and hundreds of jobs that are created by recycling industries. Shows the machinery and processes used at Material Recovery Facilities that produce recycled materials for clothing, benches, chairs, cardboard, and paper products. Closes with a demonstration of composting for home and community gardens.

Learning Objectives: Students will:

Understand that the recycling coordinator is responsible for overseeing the work of hundreds of people in the recycling industry.

Explain the difference between Number 1 and Number 2 plastics and their respective recycled products.

Explain how newspapers and magazines are recycled into all kinds of paper products, newsprint and cardboard.

Understand that recycling facilities are factories with distribution networks that use rail and truck transport.

Understand that regular composting can fertilize home and community gardens.

Understand the importance of community efforts to recycle used materials.

Vocabulary:

employees, facility, facilities, V-screen, gravity feed, vat, pulper, product, boxboard, conveyor belt, aluminum, coordinator, recycling, recycled, trash, bales, organic waste, material recovery

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

What do you put into the recycling bin at home? Why do you put trash into the recycling bin? Why can't all trash be put in the same bin?

What kind of plastic jugs can be recycled? What products are made from recycled plastics?

What products are created from recycled newspapers and magazines?

Is there a kind of recycling that can be done at home? What is this kind of recycling called?

Post-Viewing Discussion:

Why is the recycling coordinator so enthusiastic about his job? Why are the facilities supervisors so enthusiastic about their jobs?

How is the recycling box sorted once it reaches the recycling facility? How are cans sorted? How are newspapers and magazines sorted? How are plastic containers sorted?

How are used newspapers and magazines made into paper products?

What products can be made from recycled clear plastic bottles? What products can be made from #2 plastics?

How are recycled materials distributed to factories and homes?

What is composting?

Further Activities:

Take a virtual tour or visit a paper products factory to see how recycled paper is made into new products.

Further investigate how plastic bottles can be turned into park benches. What equipment is needed to make this happen? Who designs the equipment and the products that can be made?

Find out what kinds of garbage end up in landfill sites. Why can't this trash be recycled? Is garbage in landfill sites a danger to human populations?

Take on a composting project of your own. Find out what table and kitchen scraps make good compost. Set up a procedure to guarantee your family has good compost for the garden.

Be aware of times when people are not recycling when they should. Think of ways to politely suggest that they should be recycling and to tell them what products can be recycled.

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