



# Field Trip Ideas:

There's no better way to learn than by first-hand experience. Take the kids on a field trip to learn about recycling in their community.



## Lesson 5:

### **Visit a recycling facility.**

Learn first hand how waste is handled in your school's community. Take an afternoon trip to a recycling center or landfill in your area. If a field trip is not possible, ask a representative from the center to visit your school.

Visit [www.cleanup.org](http://www.cleanup.org) to find out what facilities are in your area.

### **Spend a day outdoors.**

Take an afternoon and clean up your community. Take your class to a nearby park, river, lake or mountain range and have the children help beautify their community. When you return discuss what you saw and what you can do to help prevent nature from being polluted.

### **Visit a local manufacturing company.**

To understand more about recycling it is important to learn how the products are manufactured. Take your class to a local bottling company or any other company that produces a recyclable material so children can have an appreciation for how everyday goods are produced.

### **Talk to the experts.**

Find a local environmental or recycling expert to talk to your students. He can provide first-hand knowledge, statistics and information to your students about recycling and the environment.





# How does a recycling facility work?

## Lesson 5:

1. Construction debris is brought on site. Cardboard, wood, metal and concrete are separated. All hazardous and illegal materials are removed at this point to be disposed of in their proper facility.



2. Metal and cardboard are sent to recycling facilities. Wood is ground to produce mulch. Concrete remains on our site for crushing. With the rising costs of stone, recycling concrete is quickly becoming the product of choice.

3. Residual debris is screened allowing for the recovery of dirt, rock, sand and gypsum. This product is available in filling applications as opposed to costly topsoil.

4. Finally, the greatly reduced residual material is sent to the local landfill.

### How is plastic recycled?

1. Plastic bottles for recycling are collected from bottle banks or from curbside recycling boxes.

2. The bottles are taken away by a truck to be sorted and then squashed into big blocks.

3. The blocks are then taken to a factory, where they are cut up into small flakes – like little, colorful corn flakes.

4. The flakes are washed and dried, then taken away to be melted and made into new plastic objects.





# Musical Activities

Here are a few musical ideas you and your class can create out of recyclable material:

## Lesson 5:

### Tambourine:

Here's what you'll need:

- 2 heavy duty paper plates
- stapler or glue
- hole punch
- string
- jingle bells
- crayons



Staple or glue two paper plates together, facing each other. Using a hole punch, make holes around the plates and tie jingle bells to the holes with string. Decorate the tambourine with crayons.

Shake to play.

### Drum:

Here's what you'll need:

- empty oatmeal box with cover
- yarn
- pen
- 2 pencils
- 2 spools
- construction paper
- crayons



Before beginning, you can decorate the oatmeal box with construction paper and/or crayons for a colorful effect.

Place the cover on the box. Use a pen to make a hole in the center of the cover and in the center of the bottom of the box. Through these holes, pull a piece of yarn long enough to hang around child's neck and down to their waist.

For the drumsticks, place the spools at the ends of the pencils, secure with glue if necessary.





## Make a Recycling Center at School

**You're a recycling pro by now! So get everyone together, and start a recycling program at your school! Here are some tips for creating your own recycling program.**

### Lesson 5:

- Decide what can be recycled in your school district (paper, plastic, printer cartridges, batteries, etc.). Then, make sure to sort objects according to the rules.
- Determine how you will sort your recyclables. For instance, will each grade level have a recycling area? Will you have small stations in each classroom? Consider having a contest between grades or classes to challenge each other to recycle.
- Form a recycling club to be responsible for the program. This club should include faculty, students and parents who will brainstorm ideas, set up recycling stations, determine who will get recyclables taken to the local facility, etc.
- Be creative: Use different colors and shapes for all different recyclables. Have your students create maps with all recycling stations marked on them. These can be placed throughout the school so everyone knows where to throw their trash. Make sure to use recycled paper!
- Have your students create brochures or fliers about recycling to share with parents and the community to encourage recycling and showcase your school's program.
- Watch the details: Make sure you know how many classroom, lounge and cafeteria recycling containers will be needed--you don't want to have an overflow of recyclables!
- Brag on your program! Enter the Good Sports Always Recycle challenge to have your recycling program recognized.
- Continue the education. Your recycling program should have an educational component to ensure students understand the importance of recycling. You might want to start an environmental club so more people can get involved.





# Create your Own Paper Mache Project

Paper mache is one of the most environmentally friendly projects. Here is how students can have fun, while being earth friendly at the same time:

## Lesson 5:

### You Will Need:

Newspaper

Mold (such as a balloon)

1/2 cup all-purpose flour

2 cups cold water

2 cups boiling water

3 tbsp. sugar

### To Make Paste:

Mix together flour and cold water in a bowl. Add this mixture to the boiling water and allow it to return to a boil. Remove from heat and stir in the sugar. As the mixture cools it will thicken.

You can also just make a quick paste by putting flour in a bowl and adding water until you have kind of a soupy paste.

### To Make Your Shape:

1. Tear (don't cut) narrow strips of newspaper or newsprint. Narrower strips work best when using a rounded mold. For flat or rectangular surfaces, larger strips are ok.
2. Dip the strips into the paste, coating completely. As you lift the strip out, run it between your thumb and forefinger to squeeze out excess paste.
3. Then drape the strip across your mold. Overlap strips slightly as you go - the torn edges will blend together and your final product will have a smoother finish. You may need more than one layer of paper. It's best to allow each layer to dry before putting another on - this means some projects could take several days!





# Crossword Puzzle

## Lesson 5:

1								3
2		4						
3								
				4				

### Down:

1. We like to breathe clean \_\_\_\_.
3. Who can make a difference?
4. More than 50 percent of new \_\_\_\_\_ are made from recycled aluminum.



### Across:

1. Cans are made of \_\_\_\_.
2. Another word for reuse is \_\_\_\_.
3. Where trash that is not recycled goes.
4. We write \_\_\_\_ in class.





## Suggested Reading



- **A Pig's Tale**  
By Olivia Newton-John
- **Compost Critters**  
By Bianca Lavies
- **Fifty Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth**  
By Earthworks Group, John Javna
- **Fun With Recycling: 50 Great Things For Kids To Make From Junk**  
By Marion Elliot
- **My First Green Book**  
By Angela Wilkes
- **One World**  
By Michael Forman
- **Recycle!: A Handbook for Kids**  
By Gail Gibbons
- **The Berenstain Bears Don't Pollute (Anymore)**  
By Stan Berenstain
- **The Day the Trash Came Out to Play**  
By David M. Beadle
- **The Lorax**  
Dr. Seuss
- **Why Should I Recycle?**  
By Jen Green

