

# Recycle!

Cycle 25 Decodable  
Student Reader



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**What does it mean?** Many materials that we use every day, like plastic and metal, can be used again. When these materials are recycled, they are used again instead of being thrown away.

Materials can be recycled for the same purpose. For example, imagine that you grew 4 inches over the summer. Now, your bicycle is too small for you. You can recycle the bicycle by giving it to your little sister instead of throwing it away. It would be used for the same purpose.

Materials can also be recycled for a different purpose. Instead of throwing out food scraps, you can use them for plant food. This process recycles your food scraps for a different purpose: to grow plants in your home garden or your local community garden.

**Why should you do it?** A typical person throws away 1.5 tons of solid waste per year! And did you know that Americans throw away enough plastic bottles each year to circle the world 4 times?! That's a lot of trash.

When you recycle, you reduce the trash. Also, making these materials uses up a lot of water and puts chemicals in the air. So, recycling helps to save water and keep the air clean, too.

**What can you do?** First, you should know what can be recycled: paper, plastic, glass, metal, textiles, batteries, food, and electrical equipment. Then, separate these materials from your trash.

The last step is to find out where these things can be recycled. Maybe your community has a local recycling program and will pick up some of these items. Or you might need to find a place to take them. We can all work together to recycle!