

## Recycling and Conservation Why Recycle?

Recycling is a **process**<sup>1</sup> where you work to reuse something, rather than throwing it away. Only certain types of materials can be recycled. The most common are aluminum and steel cans, glass, and newspaper. Recycling can be time-consuming and dirty work. You have to sort cans and glass from your trash. You have to bundle newspapers. You have to haul everything each week to the curb so a recycling truck can cart it away. So why do people bother?

Recycling helps protect the Earth. Recycling means less garbage in landfills. These are places where garbage is taken and buried. Recycling also helps **conserve**<sup>2</sup> Earth's resources. For example, factories use less energy by recycling steel cans than by making new ones. By recycling paper, fewer trees must be cut down. Trees are used to make paper.

Every time you drop a soda bottle in the garbage, stop and think. Is it worth harming the Earth? Your actions now can help preserve the environment for generations to come. All you have to do is throw that bottle into a recycling bin. Get in the **habit**.<sup>3</sup> Be proud of your recycling. Encourage others to recycle. You can make a difference!

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<sup>1</sup> **process:** a series of actions that produce a result

<sup>2</sup> **conserve:** to save from loss

<sup>3</sup> **habit:** something done regularly without thinking about it

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Which is NOT a part of recycling?

- A throwing a bottle in the garbage
- B throwing a bottle in a recycling bin
- C hauling cans and glass each week to the curb
- D reusing something

2. How does the author organize the information in this passage?

- A The author explains a problem and suggests many different solutions.
- B The author describes the causes and effects of an event.
- C The author lists information about a topic in order of importance, from most to least important.
- D The author examines both sides of an issue and offers convincing proof of his or her point of view.

3. Read this sentence: "You have to sort cans and glass from your trash."

This sentence can be used to support which conclusion below?

- A "Only certain things can be recycled."
- B "Recycling can be time-consuming and dirty work."
- C "Recycling helps protect the Earth."
- D "Be proud of your recycling."

4. It can be concluded from this passage that

- A the author works for a recycling plant
- B the author does not believe in recycling
- C the author believes that all you have to do to save the environment is throw a bottle in a bin
- D the author believes that everyday people can help the Earth

5. At the end of paragraph one, the author writes, "So why do people bother?" Why does the author include this sentence?

- A** to transition the reader to the next paragraph, which answers the question
- B** to question the reader's prior knowledge about recycling
- C** to summarize the major points in paragraph one
- D** to allow the reader to demonstrate comprehension

6. What is the main idea of this passage?

- A** Recycling helps protect the Earth and conserve its resources.
- B** Many people avoid recycling because it is too difficult.
- C** People must make decisions during recycling.
- D** Only certain things can be recycled.

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Recycling takes work, \_\_\_\_\_ it is good for the environment.

- A** instead
- B** but
- C** so
- D** before

8. How does the author suggest that you get "in the habit" of recycling?

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**9.** What examples does the author provide to show that recycling helps conserve Earth’s resources?

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**10.** Answer both questions: (a) How can everyday people “make a difference?” and (b) What effect will this have?

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## Teacher Guide & Answers

**Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 590

**Featured Text Structure:** Persuasive – the writer analyzes both sides of an argument and offers convincing proof of his/her point of view in order to influence the reader

**Passage Summary:** In “Recycling and Conservation – Why Recycle?”, the author explains the importance of recycling. The author also provides information to attempt to persuade the reader to recycle.

1. Which is NOT a part of recycling?
  - A. throwing a bottle in the garbage**
  - B. throwing a bottle in a recycling bin
  - C. hauling cans and glass each week to the curb
  - D. reusing something
2. How does the author organize the information in this passage?
  - A. The author explains a problem and suggests many different solutions.
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  - C. The author lists information about a topic in order of importance, from most to least important.
  - D. The author examines both sides of an issue and offers convincing proof of his or her point of view.**
3. Read this sentence: “You have to sort cans and glass from your trash.”

This sentence can be used to support which conclusion below?

- A. “Only certain things can be recycled.”
  - B. “Recycling can be time-consuming and dirty work.”**
  - C. “Recycling helps protect the Earth.”
  - D. “Be proud of your recycling.”
4. It can be concluded from this passage that
    - A. the author works for a recycling plant
    - B. the author does not believe in recycling

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6. What is the main idea of this passage?

- A. Recycling helps protect the Earth and conserve its resources.**
- B. Many people avoid recycling because it is too difficult.
- C. People must make decisions during recycling.
- D. Only certain things can be recycled.

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Recycling takes work, \_\_\_\_\_ it is good for the environment.

- A. instead
- B. but**
- C. so
- D. before

8. How does the author suggest that you get "in the habit" of recycling?

**Suggested answer:** The author suggests that you stop and think about your actions, and choose a bin instead of a garbage can for your recyclable items.

9. What examples does the author provide to show that recycling helps conserve Earth's resources?

**Suggested answer:** The author provides two examples. Factories use less energy when recycling steel cans than when making new ones.

When paper is recycled, fewer trees need to be cut down. Trees are used to make paper.

**10.** Answer both questions: (a) How can everyday people “make a difference?” and (b) What effect will this have?

**Suggested answer:** (a) Everyday people can “make a difference” by recycling and encouraging others to recycle. (b) When people recycle and encourage others to recycle, more materials will be recycled. This will protect the Earth from waste in landfills and help conserve the Earth’s resources.