

It's Easy Being Green!



Simple Steps to
Help Keep Our World Clean!

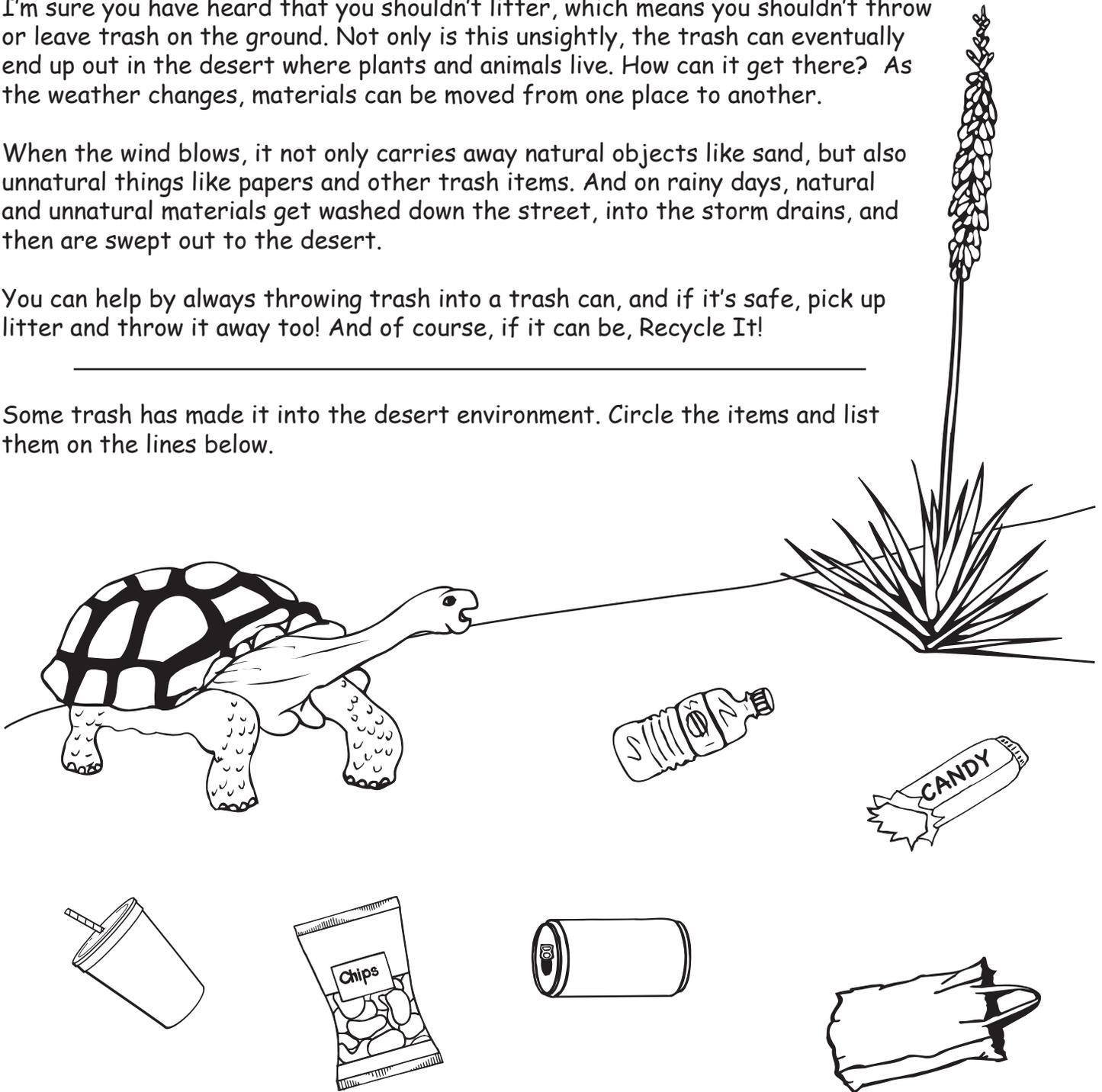
Please Don't Litter

I'm sure you have heard that you shouldn't litter, which means you shouldn't throw or leave trash on the ground. Not only is this unsightly, the trash can eventually end up out in the desert where plants and animals live. How can it get there? As the weather changes, materials can be moved from one place to another.

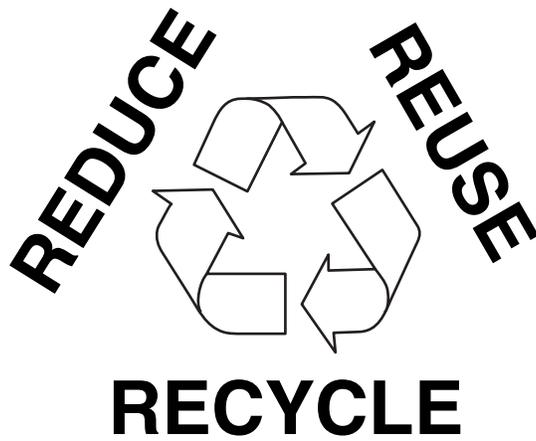
When the wind blows, it not only carries away natural objects like sand, but also unnatural things like papers and other trash items. And on rainy days, natural and unnatural materials get washed down the street, into the storm drains, and then are swept out to the desert.

You can help by always throwing trash into a trash can, and if it's safe, pick up litter and throw it away too! And of course, if it can be, Recycle It!

Some trash has made it into the desert environment. Circle the items and list them on the lines below.



Items people typically litter include:



You can Reduce the amount of trash going to landfills by purchasing items in bulk where there is less packaging. For instance, instead of buying two small boxes of cereal, your parents could purchase one large one!

Once you are done with something, consider Reusing it for another project. An example might be Reusing the large cereal box to store toys.

Finally, once it's outlived its usefulness, and if it can be, Recycle it so that it can be made into another product.

Draw a solid line between the word and it's description.

Reduce

Use again or more than once

Reuse

Change waste into a reusable material

Recycle

Make smaller or less in amount

Why Recycle?

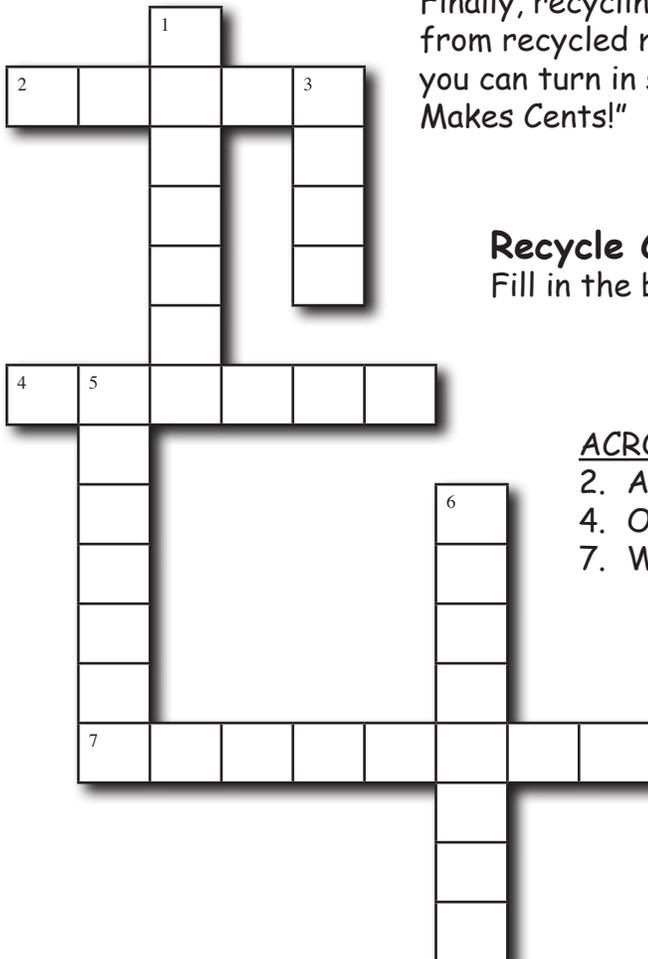
Have you ever wondered why we recycle things? One reason is to reduce the harvesting and mining of natural resources. Natural resources are things that are found in nature that are used by people. For instance trees are a natural resource. We use them for building materials, paper products, and food. When we recycle paper and cardboard, we no longer need to cut down trees. Instead, the paper and cardboard are ground back down into a pulp material which is in turn made into recycled paper and cardboard.

When we recycle, we also reduce the amount of energy used to produce a product. For instance, aluminum cans are made of aluminum ore that is dug out of the ground. This ore must be separated from other rocks, melted, and then formed into cans. Aluminum cans that are recycled never need to be dug out of the ground and never need to be separated from other rocks. They simply need to be melted and formed back into another product.

Recycling also reduces air pollution. When trucks and trains carry natural resources, they burn fuel. This creates an air pollution which we often call smog. Recycling reduces the need to transport natural resources from far away places which in turn reduces the amount of fuel burned in vehicles.

And, recycling reduces the amount of materials dumped into a landfill. Landfills are the places where trash trucks are emptied. Once landfills are full, they are no longer usable and a new one must be built to take it's place. More about landfills on page 7.

Finally, recycling saves money. It costs less to create something from recycled materials than it does from natural resources. And you can turn in some materials for cash. You might say, "Recycling Makes Cents!"



Recycle Crossword

Fill in the blanks with the answers to the clues below.

ACROSS

2. A natural resource used to make paper.
4. One of the things reduced when we recycle.
7. Where trash is dumped.

DOWN

1. Changing a material into a new product.
3. A type of air pollution created when fuel is burned.
5. Found in nature.
6. Aluminum cans are made of _____ ore.

What Can We Recycle?

Did you know that over half of the trash people produce can be recycled? In general, containers made of paper, cardboard, plastic, metal, or glass should be placed in your recycling bin. Here are some items that should be placed in your recycle bin:

Paper

- White paper
- Junk mail
- Magazines
- Newspaper

Cardboard

- Toilet paper rolls
- Boxes
- Egg cartons

Plastic

- Water bottles
- Soda bottles
- Milk jugs
- Shampoo containers

Metal

- Cans
- Trays
- Aerosol Cans

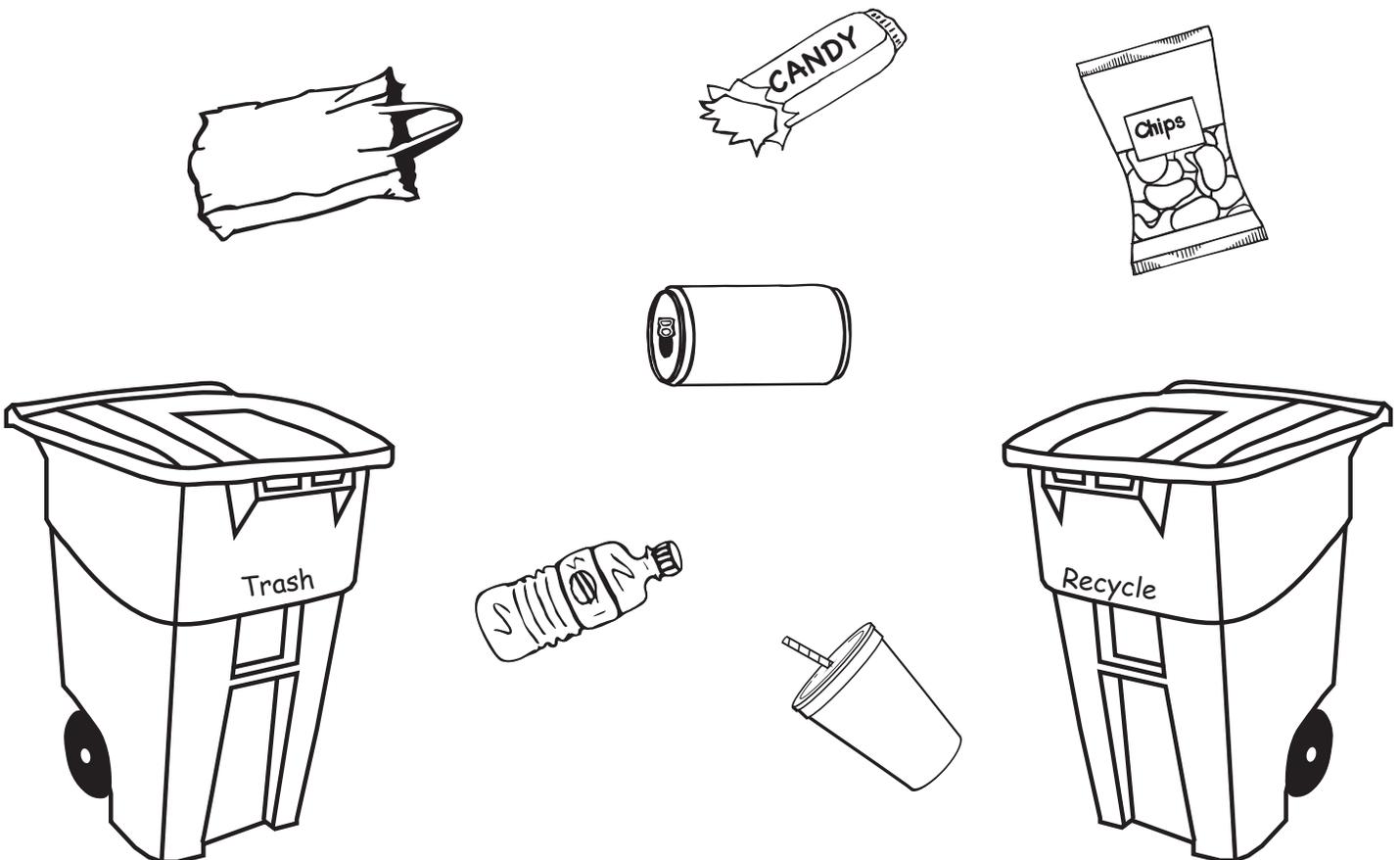
Glass

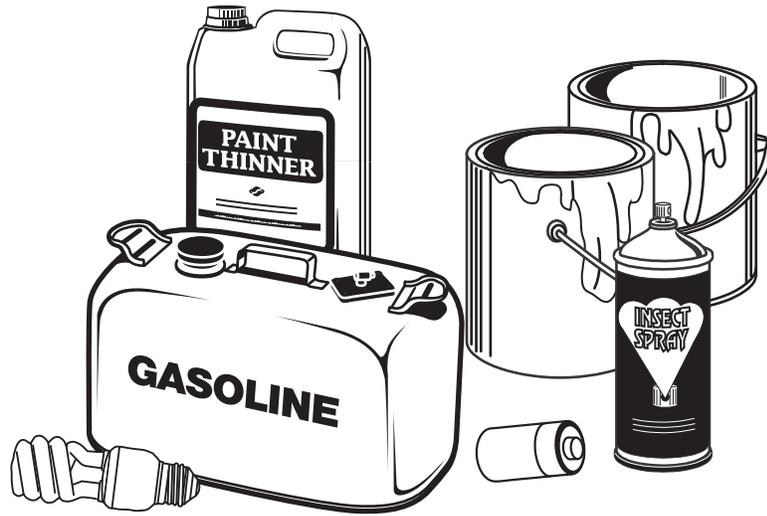
- Bottles
- Jars

On the other hand, there are some items that look like they can be recycled, but really they can't be recycled. Here are some examples of things that can NOT be recycled and should NOT be placed in your recycle container:

- Paper towels
- Tissues
- Juice boxes
- Candy wrappers
- Chip bags
- Plastic wrap
- Paper plates
- Paper cups
- Pet food bags
- Boxes with food on them (like a pizza box)

These items were left in the desert on page 2. Draw lines connecting them to the correct bins to determine if they should be trashed or recycled.





Household Hazardous Waste

Household Hazardous Waste, or HHW are products that can be dangerous if not disposed of correctly. They often have the words "Poison", "Danger", "Caution", or "Warning" on the labels.

These products are harmful to the environment and should never be thrown into the trash or poured outside. Instead, have your parents call 800-OILYCAT for safe disposal information.

Circle some of these common HHW products that should never be thrown into the trash.

PAINT
CLEANERS
BATTERIES

MOTOR OIL
FERTILIZER
FLUORESCENT LIGHTS

PESTICIDE
CHEMICALS
TELEVISIONS

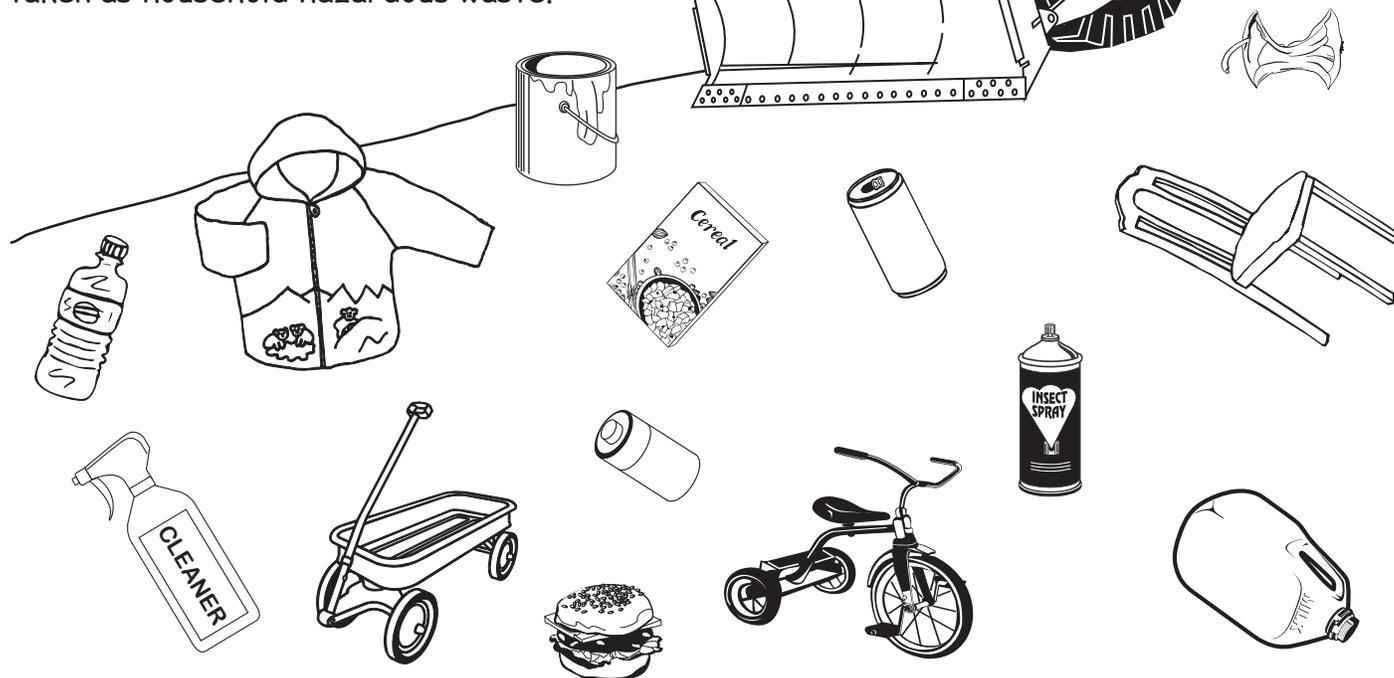
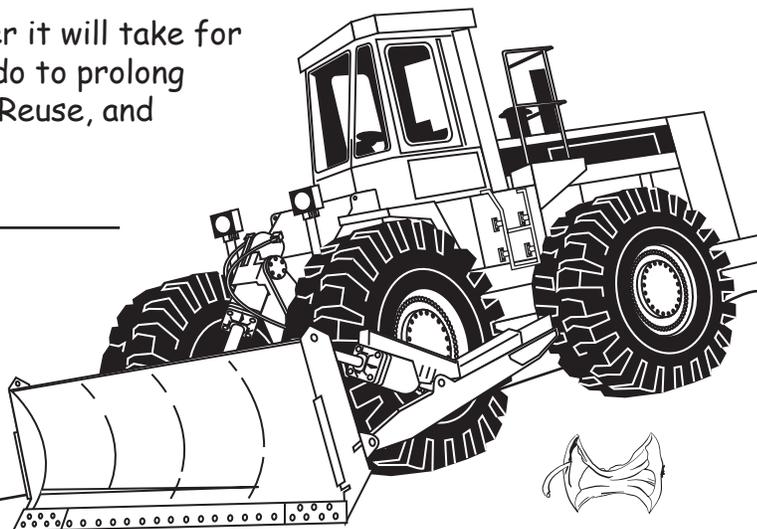
S	U	P	D	E	B	Q	U	L	H	G	Z	O	X	V	P	B
J	L	Y	W	M	T	U	R	K	N	B	S	D	F	G	A	H
P	E	S	T	I	C	I	D	E	Q	Z	T	B	F	R	I	P
U	R	L	M	R	L	X	Z	N	M	W	E	A	H	Y	N	Z
F	L	U	O	R	E	S	C	E	N	T	L	I	G	H	T	S
E	Q	X	B	H	A	W	E	K	M	N	E	P	O	B	V	E
R	P	Y	R	I	N	D	S	W	Q	M	V	O	U	T	I	C
T	B	A	T	T	E	R	I	E	S	U	I	P	B	J	O	T
I	Z	U	E	T	R	O	P	I	A	H	S	Q	C	D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

Landfills

When you put things in a trash can, they are emptied into a trash truck and later into a landfill. Landfills are costly to operate and once they are full, a new one has to be constructed, typically further away from civilization. This means trash trucks have to drive further, using more fuel and creating more air pollution. Also the new landfill takes away habitat from plants and wildlife.

Therefore, the less we throw away, the longer it will take for the landfills to fill up. The best thing we can do to prolong the life of our current landfills is to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

Some of these things don't belong in the landfill. Unscramble the words below to see if they should be recycled, reused, or taken as household hazardous waste.



Recycled

RTAW E TTEBLO

DOAS ACN

KMLI GJU

LRCEAE XBO

Reused

YCETIRCL

OGWAN

RCHIA

KCATJE

Household Hazardous Waste

ERTYTBA

NCELARE

CSENI T RPSYA

NPITA

