RECYCLING HERO IDEAS
TEACHER GUIDE / CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS
- Find and write down two nouns, two adjectives, and two verbs from Trash Talk.
- Arrange these words in ABC (alphabetical) order: bottle • cardboard • fiber • hero • recycle • school
- Find the names of three items in the newsletter that can be recycled at school.
- Rewrite this sentence with the correct capitalization: our class is learning about recycling with seird.
- The words reduce, reuse, and recycle all begin with the same letter. Write another word beginning with R that describes something you can do to help the environment.

MATH
- A classroom collects 24 plastic bottles on Monday and 18 plastic bottles on Tuesday. How many bottles did they collect altogether?
- Four classrooms each recycle 25 sheets of paper. How many sheets of paper are recycled in all?
- A school collects 72 aluminum cans and divides them equally among 8 recycling containers. How many cans go into each container?
- SEIRD operates eight recycling centers and manages seven ReUse Stores. How many locations is that altogether?
- TRUE or FALSE: A class collected 36 cans during the first week and 29 during the second week. They collected 65 cans altogether.

SCIENCE
- Why is recycling considered a way to conserve natural resources?
- Which of these belong in your school recycling program? plastic bottle • plastic fork • aluminum can • cereal box
- What numbers should you look for on plastic bottles before placing them in your school recycling container? #1 and #2
- SEIRD accepts items such as electronics, rechargeable batteries, fluorescent bulbs, motor oil, antifreeze, and household hazardous waste. Why might these materials need to be handled differently from ordinary trash?

SOCIAL STUDIES
- SEIRD serves communities throughout southeastern Indiana. Find southeastern Indiana on a map.
- Find Madison, Indiana, where SEIRD's main office is located, on a map.
- SEIRD helps communities recover after tornadoes, floods, and ice storms. Name two ways a natural disaster could create extra waste or debris in a community.
- America Recycles Day is celebrated on November 15. Why do you think communities create special days to encourage people to take action?

JOURNAL WRITING PROMPTS
- Imagine you are a Recycling Hero at your school. What would your superhero name be? What special recycling power would you have?
- Write a paragraph using these five words: **recycle • school • bottle • cardboard • hero**
- What could happen if everyone at your school put the wrong items into recycling containers? What could students do to help?
- SEIRD does much more than collect everyday recyclables. Choose one of its other services and explain why you think it is important to your community.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY — BE A RECYCLING HERO!
Share or copy the activity on the next page for each student. First, ask students to use what they learned in Trash Talk to decide which items can be recycled at school and which items do not belong in school recycling containers.
Then, ask students to think of one thing their school or classroom could do to recycle better. Students can write about or draw their idea in the space provided.
Afterward, invite students to share their ideas with the class. Discuss how small changes and good recycling habits can make a positive difference at school and in their community.

RECYCLING HERO CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

ARE YOU A RECYCLING HERO?

Use what you learned in Trash Talk to decide where each item belongs.

Paperback Book
Cereal Box
#1 Plastic Bottle
Aluminum Can

Cardboard Box
Steel Can
Notebook Paper
#2 Plastic Bottle

Plastic Fork
Plastic Bag
Styrofoam Cup
Candy Wrapper

DOES NOT BELONG

RECYCLE AT SCHOOL

BE A RECYCLING HERO!

Choose one thing your classroom could do to recycle better. Write or draw your idea below.

TEACHER ANSWER KEY

TRASH TALK: TRUE OR TRASH

1. Paperback books belong in the fiber container.
TRUE
2. Any plastic item can be recycled at school.
TRASH — Only empty #1 and #2 plastic bottles should be placed in school recycling containers.
3. Aluminum and steel cans can be recycled.
TRUE

RECYCLING HERO WORD HUNT

Students should find the following 10 words:
RECYCLE • PAPER • FIBER • BOTTLE • PLASTIC • CANS • CARDBOARD • HERO • BOOKS • SCHOOL

TEACHER GUIDE: RECYCLING HERO ACTIVITY

Recycle at School

Paperback Book
Cereal Box
#1 Plastic Bottle
Aluminum Can
Cardboard Box
Steel Can
Notebook Paper
#2 Plastic Bottle
Does Not Belong
Plastic Fork
Plastic Bag
Styrofoam Cup
Candy Wrapper

Be a Recycling Hero!

Answers and drawings will vary. Students should identify one way their school or classroom could improve recycling or encourage better recycling habits.

PAGE 1 CLASSROOM QUESTIONS

English/Language Arts

Alphabetical Order:
Bottle, Cardboard, Fiber, Hero, Recycle, School

Correct Capitalization:

Our class is learning about recycling with SEIRD.
All other responses will vary.

Math

24 + 18 = 42
4 × 25 = 100
72 ÷ 8 = 9
8 + 7 = 15
36 + 29 = 65: TRUE

Science

School recycling items:
Plastic bottle, aluminum can, cereal box
Plastic bottle numbers:
#1 and #2
All other responses will vary.

Social Studies & Journal Writing

Answers will vary.

SKILLS & INDIANA ACADEMIC STANDARDS

The activities in this Teacher Guide reinforce grade-level skills while helping students connect classroom learning to recycling, responsible disposal, natural resources, and environmental stewardship in their communities.

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS – Skills Addressed:

Reading and comprehending informational text; identifying main ideas and supporting details; using context clues and content-specific vocabulary; responding to text through writing and discussion; communicating ideas clearly.
Standards Connection:
Reading Comprehension • Writing • Communication and Collaboration
Students read and respond to informational text, use evidence and information from Trash Talk to answer questions, apply vocabulary in context, and communicate their own ideas about recycling and environmental responsibility.

MATHEMATICS – Skills Addressed:

Addition • Multiplication • Division • Word Problems • Mathematical Reasoning • Real-World Application
Standards Connection:
Number Sense • Computation • Algebraic Thinking • Process Standards
Students solve one- and multi-step problems using recycling-related quantities and apply mathematical reasoning to real-world situations.
Process Standards:
PS.1 — Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
PS.2 — Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
PS.4 — Model with mathematics.

SCIENCE – Skills Addressed:

Natural Resources • Material Properties • Recycling and Waste • Responsible Disposal • Human Impact on the Environment
Standards Connection:
4-ESS3-1 — Earth and Human Activity: Natural Resources
Students explore how people use natural resources and how those choices can affect the environment. Activities reinforce the importance of conserving resources, recycling appropriate materials, and safely disposing of materials that require special handling.
Additional activities encourage students to observe and classify materials by their properties and consider how individual and community choices can help protect natural resources.

SOCIAL STUDIES – Skills Addressed:

Geography • Communities • Citizenship • Civic Responsibility • Human-Environment Interaction
2026 Indiana Academic Standards Connections:
3.C.4 — Responsible citizenship in the community, state, and nation
3.C.5 — Citizen participation in community decision-making and activities
3.G.1 — Locating and identifying features using maps
3.G.3 — Identifying local and regional communities, including Indiana, on maps
3.G.5 — Identifying Indiana and the local community as part of a region
3.G.8 — Describing how human activities and natural systems affect the local environment
Students locate southeastern Indiana and Madison on a map, consider the role of SEIRD within their communities, and explore how individual and community actions can affect the local environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY – Skills Addressed:

Waste Reduction • Recycling Practices • Material Sorting • Responsible Disposal • Natural Resource Conservation • Environmental Decision-Making • Community Stewardship
Students Will:
Apply what they learn about recycling to everyday choices; distinguish between materials that do and do not belong in school recycling; consider ways to improve recycling practices at school; recognize the importance of responsible disposal; and understand how individual actions can contribute to a cleaner, healthier community.