

CHAPTER 3

In chapter two you learned how our needs and wants use resources from the environment. These resources can be made from things we can touch (material resources) or things we cannot touch (nonmaterial resources).

You also learned that some resources are renewable (like trees and chickens) while others cannot be renewed (like gas for cars). It is important to take care of our environment...

Why ?

Because...

All living organism depend on each other to survive. This means all of the resources in our environment

must be **shared** by all living organisms. Taking care of the environment helps us to survive.



But how do we do this?

One way we can take care of our environment is by looking at what we throw away!

If you look at most trash that is thrown away, you will find the following things:

- Paper
- Yard waste
- Food scraps
- Plastics
- Metal
- and glass...

But what happens after you throw that old box away in the trash? It doesn't disappear, does it? Of course not!

A large truck picks all of the trash in your trashcan up. The truck takes your trash to a **landfill**. Landfills are large fields where trash is dumped and buried.

Landfills are **HUGE!** How often does the trash truck pick up your trash? Usually, it is once a week. Each time the trash truck comes by, there is usually two or three bags of trash to pick up.

Now imagine all of your trash being placed into a pile. Now imagine your neighbor's trash in that pile, and their neighbor's trash, and so on.... **that is a lot of trash!**

Landfills may be huge, but there are a lot of people putting a lot of trash into them... It doesn't take too long for a landfill to fill up! So how do we reduce the amount of trash we throw away?

Good question!

You can use the three R's

Reduce - using less resources

Reuse - using your resources again *without* changing them

Recycle - using your resources again *after* changing them

IT DOESN'T TAKE LONG TO TURN THIS...



...INTO THIS!



You can **reduce** and **reuse** your resources everyday! Here are few ideas:

- Try not to use a dozen paper towels to clean up that drink you spilled. Why not use a sponge or rag? You can always wash and reuse that sponge or rag!
- Use both sides of your paper before getting a new one!
- Don't throw away old clothes. Have a yard sale or donate the items to a local charity.
- Reuse those old plastic butter containers for leftovers and to store stuff!

You can **recycle** many resources at home:

- Paper
- Plastic
- Glass
- Metal

**These are resources
you can recycle at
home!**



When you recycle these important resources, you have to make some changes in them before you can use them again, right? You wouldn't take an empty pop bottle out of the trash, fill it back up with more soda, and give it to someone for them to drink it. **That is yucky!**

To be recycled, plastic, glass and metal are all melted down in large ovens. After they are melted down, they are made into new and different objects.

Recycling paper is a little different. Most paper is chopped up and added to a large amount of water. The paper looks like a large pile of goo which can be dried to make new paper.

Does it take time to put your trash into piles? **Yes!**

Does it help the environment? **You bet it does!**

But why do I have to recycle?

Recycling reduces the amount of trash and lets us reuse many resources! Pretty cool, huh?!?

Many towns have recycling centers where you can take your recycled paper, plastic, glass and metal to be reused!

Unscramble the words below:

(Hint: check out the bold-faced words in your reading!)

1. rseue _____

2. erlycce _____

3. eeurdc _____

4. ilnaldfl _____

Write the definitions for each word:

1.

2.

3.

4.

Match the words in the first column to the best available answer in the second column.

_____ landfills

1) using less resources

_____ Reduce

2) using your
resources again
without changing
them

_____ Reuse

3) using your
resources again
after changing
them

_____ Recycle

4) large fields where
trash is dumped and
buried

List five ways to reduce the amount of trash in your home.

(other than the ones you learned about in your reading!)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

List five new ways you can reuse things in your home.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____