

donate recycle don't throw away®



## Let's Talk Textiles!

### Writing dialogue

(W.3.3b; W.4.3b; W.5.3b)

1. Discuss with the class the importance of textile recycling. Ask questions, such as the ones below, listing responses on the board.
  - What do you do with clothes when you outgrow them? (*donate them, throw them away, use them as cleaning rags, save them for a younger sibling, etc.*)
  - Where do clothes go if you throw them away? (*to a landfill*)
  - What are textiles? (*Textiles are any items made from woven or non-woven cloth or artificial fabrics, like vinyl.*)
  - What is textile recycling? Why is it important? (*Textile recycling is the reusing or reprocessing of used clothing, fibrous material, and clothing scraps. It's important because old clothing fills up landfills, increases the use of natural resources, increases the need for chemicals used in manufacturing new textiles, and increases pollution caused by the manufacturing of new textiles.*)
2. Introduce the concept of textile recycling centers. Explain that nearly 100% of items donated to these centers are recycled. Further point out that damaged clothing can be recycled into wiping rags, carpet padding, insulation, and more. Families can also donate textiles to charities' secondhand stores, such as Goodwill or The Salvation Army, instead of throwing them away.
3. As a class, brainstorm a list of textiles that students might find in their homes that can be recycled. Examples could include but are not limited to shower curtains, rugs, towels, clothes, shoes, etc.
4. Next, have each student choose one item from the list brainstormed in Step 3. Direct the student to pretend that he and the item—which a parent has decided needs to be thrown away—are discussing how to convince the parent to recycle the item instead. Encourage students to include facts from the discussion to support reasons for recycling the textile and to use correct punctuation and capitalization in the conversation.
5. Provide time for students to share their conversations in groups or as a class. Then bind them together in a class book titled "It's Smart to Recycle Textiles!" Share the book with other classes on your grade level or hall and encourage students to check it out of your class library to take home and share.



## Recycling Rangers Tip

Share this fact with students: the average US citizen throws away about 70 pounds of clothing each year. Challenge students to share this information with their families and then brainstorm ways to cut that number to zero in the household.