

donate recycle don't throw away®



Recycling Is “T-rific”!

Opinion writing (W.K.1; W.1.1; W.2.1)

Steps:

1. To begin, share with students that the average US citizen throws away 70 pounds of clothing each year. Explain that even if that clothing is worn, stained, or torn, it can be recycled.
2. Lead students in discussing why they think people throw away their old clothes instead of recycling or donating them. List their reasons on the board.
3. Tell students that nearly all donated textiles are recycled. Explain that these textiles can be reused as clothing or used to make other items.
4. Point out that recycled fiber products can save money and resources because they are made using existing materials. Share with students the list of items shown that can be given a second life if recycled.
5. Have students brainstorm why textile recycling is important as you list their ideas on the board. Make sure to point out the following reasons textile recycling is important:
 - It reduces the amount of waste in landfills.
 - When you recycle textiles, manufacturers don't need to make as many new textiles. This cuts down on pollution caused by manufacturing.
6. Give each student a t-shirt pattern. Direct him to write on the t-shirt to tell why he thinks textile recycling is important. (If desired, lead younger students in small groups.) Encourage each child to state his opinion, give at least one reason to support it, and write a concluding statement. Have the child cut out his pattern and outline it with crayons or markers.
7. Invite each child or group to share the completed writing piece with the class. Then display the finished t-shirts so that others in the school can learn more about the importance of textile recycling.

From Old to New!

- A stained t-shirt can become a wiping cloth.
- A sock can be made into stuffing for a pillow.
- Old jeans can be made into household insulation.
- Unwanted stuffed toys can be used to make car seat stuffing.
- A torn bath towel can be made into a wiping cloth.

Recycling Rangers Tip

95% of textiles can be recycled—even if they're worn, torn, or stained. Yet only 15% actually are recycled. Challenge your students to spread the message about textile recycling to three other people this week. That simple action can keep hundreds of pounds of textiles out of landfills.



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T-Shirt Pattern



Tip: If desired, have kindergarten students dictate their opinions instead of writing them. Or mask the lines on the t-shirt pattern before making copies and have students illustrate their ideas instead.