Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: Reduce = use less. **Reuse** = use again. **Recycle** = make into something new.

Best first: reducing is best, then reusing, then recycling.

The Three Rs



Every day, people throw away a lot of garbage. Most of it goes to a **landfill**, a big area where garbage is buried. Landfills fill up, and some garbage takes hundreds of years to break down. The **three Rs** help us make less waste.

Reduce means using less. You can reduce waste by packing lunch in a reusable container instead of plastic bags, or by turning off the tap while you brush your teeth.

Reuse means using something again instead of throwing it away. An old jar can hold pencils, and clothes you have outgrown can be given to someone else.

Recycle means turning used materials into new products. Paper, cardboard, glass, metal cans and many plastics can be recycled. Old paper can become new paper, and cans can become new cans.

1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. What is a landfill?

(a) A place where garbage is buried (b) A recycling machine (c) A kind of farm

2. What does reduce mean?

(a) Use less (b) Use again (c) Make into something new

3. Using an old jar to hold pencils is an example of...

(a) reducing (b) recycling (c) reusing

4. Which can be recycled?

(a) Food scraps only (b) Metal cans (c) Nothing

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2. Which R?

Circle which R each action shows.

1	Turn off the lights when you leave a room.	reduce	reuse	recycle
2	Give outgrown clothes to a friend.	reduce	reuse	recycle
3	Put cans in the blue bin.	reduce	reuse	recycle
4	Use a cloth bag instead of a new plastic bag.	reduce	reuse	recycle
5	Use a shoebox to store toys.	reduce	reuse	recycle
6	Send old newspapers to be made into new paper.	reduce	reuse	recycle

3. Think like a scientist

Answer in a complete sentence.

1. **Name one thing your family could reuse instead of throwing away.**

Answer Key

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1. Check your understanding

1. What is a landfill?

a **A place where garbage is buried** b A recycling machine c A kind of farm

2. What does reduce mean?

a **Use less** b Use again c Make into something new

3. Using an old jar to hold pencils is an example of...

a reducing b recycling **c** **reusing**

4. Which can be recycled?

a Food scraps only **b** **Metal cans** c Nothing

2. Which R?

1	Turn off the lights when you leave a room.	**reduce**	reuse	recycle
2	Give outgrown clothes to a friend.	reduce	**reuse**	recycle
3	Put cans in the blue bin.	reduce	reuse	**recycle**
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5	Use a shoebox to store toys.	reduce	**reuse**	recycle
6	Send old newspapers to be made into new paper.	reduce	reuse	**recycle**

3. Think like a scientist

Sample answer.

1. **Name one thing your family could reuse instead of throwing away.**
   We could reuse glass jars to store leftovers instead of buying plastic containers.