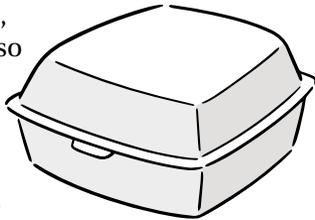


Single-use plastic is less than fantastic

How smart kids can help

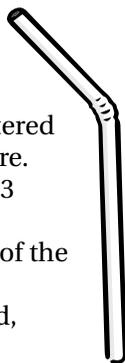
Plastic straws are getting a lot of attention these days, and not in a good way. People are starting to realize that we should use them a lot less often. Plastic straws are an example of something that is used one time and then thrown away. Plastic take-out containers, shopping bags, spoons, forks, cups, and lids are also made to be used once and then tossed into the trash. All of these disposable items are called "single-use plastics" because they are made of plastic and used one single time.



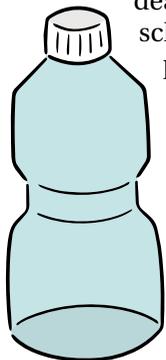
In today's world, there are many things we use just once. However, a lot of them break down easily in nature or can be composted or recycled. **Plastic straws cannot do any of these.** For this reason, they are a symbol (or example) of all of the plastics that people have grown used to using one time and throwing away.

Here is the problem:

- Plastic straws and other small, lightweight single-use plastic items are usually too small or too difficult to be recycled, so they end up in landfills.
- Because of their weight and size, plastic straws are often littered or can get blown around easily and find their way into nature. One study published earlier this year reported that about 8.3 billion plastic straws pollute the world's beaches.
- Plastics do not break down easily or biodegrade. Almost all of the plastics ever made still exist.
- Birds, fish, and other animals often mistake plastics for food, which can cause them to get sick or die.
- Plastic straws are often not really necessary!



It's hard to picture that something as small as a straw would be a big deal. A school bus is much larger than a straw. Imagine 125 school buses lined up. This line would be over a mile long. Now picture the inside of all of those buses completely stuffed with plastic straws. This is how many plastic straws Americans use in just one day, about 500 million. Now that many straws can cause a problem!



The good news is that smart kids like you can help! All you have to do is remember that it is always better to refuse, reduce, reuse, and recycle than to use something once and then throw it away. You can help by remembering to make simple changes each day. And just like lots of small straws can add up to be a big problem, lots of kids can work together to help fix it. Start with a goal of changing one plastic habit per week or month and then add new changes throughout the year.

Talk to your friends and family about making these changes, too!

Here is how you can be a part of the solution:

- Just say "No, thank you" to plastic straws or stir sticks at restaurants or places where they are offered. If you really like using straws, consider buying a reusable metal one and taking it with you.
- Instead of plastic shopping bags, ask your family to use reusable shopping bags. We love to make T-shirt bags so that we can reuse old T-shirts, too.
- Try to use fewer disposable items. At fast food restaurants, take a refillable water bottle or cup and use it instead of a throwaway cup. When buying fruits or vegetables at the store, use reusable bags or consider not using bags at all.
- Make your own take-out kit. You can carry your own reusable containers instead of asking for single-use carry-out containers.
- Did you know that many of our groceries have a bulk food area? You can bring your own reusable containers from home to fill with food instead of using the plastic bags provided.

After you have refused and reused all that you can, you should recycle all of the plastic that is recyclable. Plastic straws, forks, spoons, cup lids, loose bottle caps, and other small single-use plastic items are too small for us to recycle! Place bottle caps back on the bottle to recycle. Please use our Recycling Guide at www.HendricksSolidWaste.com for our searchable list of acceptable recyclables.

2019 Tox-Away Days Mark Your Calendar Now!

Apr 6	Brownsburg High School 1000 South Odell Street	May 18	Hendricks Co. Fairgrounds 1900 E. Main Street, Danville	Jul 27	Hickory Elementary 907 Avon Avenue
Sep 14	Hendricks Co. Fairgrounds 1900 E. Main Street, Danville	Oct 19	Plainfield Middle School 709 Stafford Road	Tox-Away Days are open from 8am to 1pm	

Questions? Visit HendricksSolidWaste.com
or call 317-858-6070 for more information



Hendricks County
Solid Waste Management District

We love to teach!

Our Educator would love to come and speak to your class, eco-club, scout group, or 4-H club. We would be happy to share any of our fun, hands-on programs. We also have materials to loan to leaders/teachers who would like to teach about recycling. Don't forget about our Environmental Lending Library! We have environmental books (fiction and nonfiction) for every age group. Call Amy Sieferman, Outreach Coordinator, at 317-858-6070.



TIME AFTER TIME

A time capsule is a container that holds articles from a certain place and time. Time capsules are usually buried or built into a sealed place and meant to be opened much later. They show people in the future what life was like at the time they were hidden.

At a Materials Recovery Facility, where recycling is sorted, a time capsule was dug up next to the building. The objects inside were clues to the year the time capsule was buried. The workers found and counted these objects:

653 aluminum drink cans
54 newspapers
475 glass bottles 788 tin cans

Add the number of objects. The total number of objects will give you the year the time capsule was buried, but not the reason. The time capsule was buried during the year that 20 million Americans gathered in towns, cities, and our nation's capital to talk about pollution and work together to find ways to improve the environment.

653	
54	
475	
+ 788	

What was the year? _____
 What was the event being celebrated? _____

PUZZLING CLUES

Samantha's Girl Scout troop is raising money to help build recycling bins for their camping trips. Use the clues below to discover how much money each scout raised.

- A. Samantha raised \$27 more than Daniela.
- B. Sarah raised twice as much as Daniela.
- C. Alyssa raised \$12 less than Samantha.
- D. Grace raised \$7 less than Sarah.
- E. Samantha raised \$68.

Questions:

- Which clue did you use first?

- Was there any clue you did not use?

- Who raised the most money?

- Who raised the least money?

- How much money did each scout raise?
 Samantha _____ Daniela _____ Alyssa _____
 Grace _____ Sarah _____

RUNAWAY RUN-ONS sail away

Instructions: Read each run-on sentence. Fix it by creating two simple sentences or rewriting it to make one compound sentence with a coordinating conjunction or one complex sentence with a subordinating conjunction.

- Hailey collected all of the cans at the picnic she recycled them at home in her family's cart.

- The recycling bins by the gym were full the principal asked the green team to empty them.

- Joshua wrote a song about recycling he performed it at the talent show.

- Ryan and Aron planned a litter cleanup at the baseball field, they asked their classmates to help.

- Valentina saw the mess she got a bag and started picking up.

- Leaving grass clippings on the lawn is good for the grass, it adds moisture to the soil.

- Alexander pulls weeds his older brother mows the lawn.

- Peyton takes the recycling cart to the curb on Thursday morning she leaves for school.

- Caleb created a recycling poster for his family, he posted it in the garage.



This experiment will help you understand more about litter and the effect it has on waterways, such as rivers and oceans. To do this experiment, you will need plastic bottles or containers, toothpicks, paper, scissors, glue, and a sink with a stopper.

- Use the plastic, toothpicks, and paper to make a small ship. First, cut a small square out of the plastic. This will become the main body of the ship.
- Cut the sharp part off of one end of the toothpick and glue that end to the center of the plastic square. Be sure to hold the toothpick in place for about a minute and then allow the glue to dry completely.
- Cut a square out of the paper about the same size as the plastic or smaller. This will be the sail of the ship. Feel free to decorate it with crayons or markers!
- Carefully bend, but do not fold, the paper in half and stick the sharp end of the toothpick through the center of the two halves. Separate the two sides of the paper to open it up and create a sail.
- Put the stopper in the sink and fill it with water. Place a few of the ships on the water.
- Try turning the faucet on and off or blowing on the sails. Observe the movement of the ships.
- Leave the ships in the water, and then pull the plug at the bottom of the sink.

- Questions:**
- Where do the ships end up when the water drains?

 - Imagine that the ships were litter and the sink was a waterway. What forces move litter around in nature?

 - How might litter affect the plants and animals living in and around a waterway?

 - How might litter affect people who drink the water or use the waterway for recreation or fishing?

 - If a plastic water bottle is dropped in a river, is it possible that the bottle could end up in the ocean? Why or why not?

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

An idiom is a phrase whose meaning doesn't match the exact meaning of the words that make it up. In other words, an idiom is a saying that doesn't mean exactly what the words say. Many cultures have idioms with meanings that have been passed down for years. "Think outside the box" doesn't mean to step outside of a box and start thinking. Instead, it means to think about something in a new way.

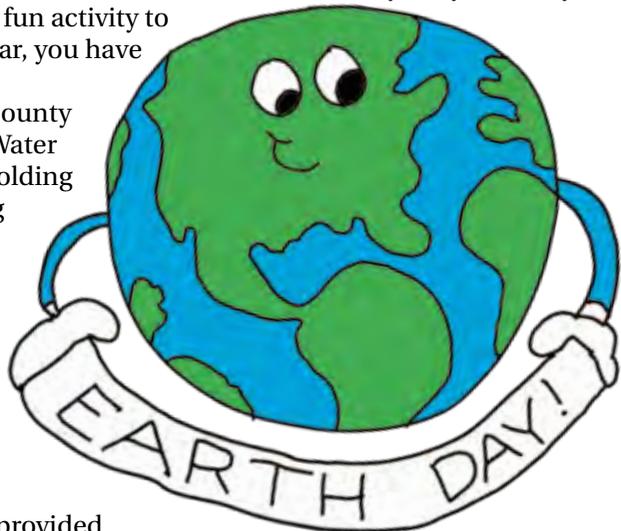
- Instructions:** Write the common meaning for each idiom below.
- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Idiom: Get carried away
Meaning: _____ | 4. Idiom: Recharge your batteries
Meaning: _____ |
| 2. Idiom: Go overboard
Meaning: _____ | 5. Idiom: Miss the boat
Meaning: _____ |
| 3. Idiom: Make do
Meaning: _____ | |



Celebrate Earth Day with us!

Earth Day, or Earth Month as we like to call it, is a very busy time of year. If you are looking for a fun activity to participate in this year, you have lots of choices.

- The Hendricks County Partnership for Water Quality will be holding its annual Spring Clean Up on April 27, 2019. Volunteers of all ages are invited to help clean up the community. Trash bags, rubber gloves, vests, and hand sanitizer will be provided. Contact candidonaldson@yahoo.com for more information.



- Hendricks County Master Gardeners will hold the Gardening for All Ages Show on April 13 at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds. The District will have a booth to educate people about the importance of composting and grasscycling. Please stop by and visit us!



- The Hendricks County Parks and Recreation Department will be holding many programs during the month of April. Check them out at www.hendrickscountyparks.org. Some programs require advance registration.
- The Hendricks County Solid Waste Management District will join the Avon Outdoor Learning Center (OLC) to celebrate Earth Day at the OLC on April 27. Come and enjoy a Native Plant Sale, Earth-friendly vendors/artisans, resources for families, and fun activities.

Don't go overboard!

Be a smart recycler

“Going overboard” means losing control and doing too much of something — even a good thing. For example, if you ate so many yummy apples that you got sick to your stomach, you “went overboard” eating them. Eating apples is good for you. But losing control and eating so many that you feel sick is NOT!

The same thing goes for recycling. We all have learned that recycling is good for the planet. But did you know that some people “go overboard” when they recycle? They want to do the right thing and recycle. This is fantastic! But sometimes they aren't sure if something is recyclable or not and they toss things into the recycling bin that cannot be recycled.

Sometimes people leave a lot of food in recyclable bottles or cans they place into the bin. This makes a big mess! This gross mix of recycling and garbage takes hard work, time, and money to separate. Sometimes the mess is impossible to sort out. Then the recycling is ruined and may have to be sent to a landfill.

This is why it is important to know what to recycle and how to prepare it before placing anything into the recycling bins at your home, in your school, or at a drop-off center.

Be a smart recycler. Don't “go overboard.” And help your family members, classmates, and friends be smart recyclers, too!

WHAT should I recycle?

- Aluminum cans, such as pop and juice cans
- Steel cans, including food, soup, pet food, and “tin” cans
- #1-#7 Plastic bottles, jugs, jars, and containers (except Styrofoam)
- Glass bottles and jars (green, brown, or clear only)
- Newspapers
- Magazines and catalogs
- Softback books, including phone books
- School papers, printer and copier paper, and mail
- Paperboard, such as empty cereal and gift boxes
- Corrugated cardboard, such as shipping boxes
- Cartons, such as milk, soup, and broth



HOW should I prepare my recycling?

- Empty and rinse food and drink containers. Turn containers upside down and let them drip dry.
- Break down and flatten boxes.
- Recycle only clean paper products. Remember — paper and boxes soaked with grease or covered in sticky, spilled food should go into the trash.
- Don't bag your recycling. Put clean recyclables loose into the cart or bin.



WHY should I recycle?

- Recycling keeps usable resources out of landfills.
- Making new products from recyclables uses less energy and creates less pollution.
- Recycling helps create jobs.

WHERE should I recycle?



Curbside recycling is available in Avon, Brownsburg, Danville, North Salem, Pittsboro, and Plainfield through local haulers. The District also operates four recycling drop-off centers: Lizton (177 W. Main Street), Stilesville (5745 US 40), Coatesville (50409 Mill Street), and North Salem (7 W. Pearl Street).

Funded by the Hendricks County Solid Waste Management District

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WANT TO
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