

Give gifts in creative, earth-friendly wrappings

We all enjoy birthdays and other special days year-round. During the winter months, we also celebrate certain holidays. With so many merry celebrations during this fun time of year, families do lots of gift buying and giving.

If you choose to wrap gifts, consider fun, reusable materials instead of traditional, expensive wrapping paper. Please remember that wrapping paper is not recyclable. Neither are packaged bows and ribbons. Here are some interesting and creative ways to make your holiday gifts beautiful and also nice for the earth.



- Wrap gifts in fabric, such as scarves, bandanas, tea towels, or cloth napkins. This type of wrapping is known in Japan as Furoshiki. There is no need to worry about finding the end of the tape or running out of paper, and the wrapping becomes part of the gift. To see how to wrap gifts using Furoshiki, visit <https://youtu.be/Wj0Vj08wIBQ>.
- Instead of using plastic bows, add nature to your gift. Pine clippings, boxwood, holly, cedar, pine cones, and rosemary make beautiful and sweet-smelling package decorations.
- Start a new tradition. Make a cloth drawstring bag, called a Santa Sack, and reuse it each year.
- Bubble wrap looks like ice and is fun to pop. Wrap gifts in leftover bubble wrap and give the gift of popping too!
- Use recyclable items from around the house:
 - Aluminum foil
 - Colorful sections of the newspaper, such as the comics or ads
 - Magazine pages
 - Cereal boxes
 - Old sheet music
 - Cardboard decorated to look like a gingerbread house
 - Paper shopping bags turned inside out and decorated
 - Artwork from school
- Be creative! Leftover wallpaper scraps, yarn, string, and other items can be reused instead of buying new wrapping paper and ribbons. Old holiday cards can be made into gift tags.

With a little creativity, stuff lying around the house can become gift wrap, a gift tag, or even the gift itself!

Give your holiday tree another life

The holidays bring visions of hot chocolate, warm wishes, music, and family and friends gathered all around. We decorate our homes and schools with special decorations. How exciting it is to put up the Christmas tree! We take such care in placing our favorite ornaments, lights, garlands, and other special touches in just the right spots to make a beautiful display. As we ring in the New Year, we clear away the tree and start dreaming of spring. Whatever type of tree your family enjoys this year, it can have new life after the holidays.

If your family uses a real, cut tree, please recycle it. Trees aren't recycled in the same way as bottles, papers, and cans. Instead, trees can be recycled by being ground into useful mulch or compost. Remove all decorations, lights, and garlands, as well as the stand. You can drop off your Christmas tree at one of our District Yard Waste Recycling Centers. Trees will be accepted from December 23 through January 20. The centers are located at 90 Mardale Drive in Brownsburg and 7020 S. CR 875 E in Plainfield. Greencycle McCarty in Danville will also accept cut, real Christmas trees.



If you have a living holiday tree attached to a ball of dirt and roots, it can be planted in the ground. Be sure to give your tree the best chance to thrive by digging a good-sized hole before the ground freezes.

If you have an artificial tree, carefully pack it up for next year. If you'll be replacing it next year, donate the old one to a charitable organization, like Goodwill. Or, keep the tree to make an extra room merry next year. You could decorate the extra tree in a fun theme or with special hand-crafted ornaments made from reused items around the house.

When the celebrating season is over, keep our Earth happy by giving your tree new life.

Make your holiday season easier with our programs

We offer two hands-on programs that are perfect for this time of year — "Trash to Treasure Crafts" and "Get MORE Out of the Holidays: Simplify." We can visit classrooms, as well as scout troops, clubs, after-school programs, and other youth groups. Ask your teacher to contact Amy

Sieferman at asieferman@HendricksSolidWaste.com to learn more.

We also have "Get MORE Out of the Holidays: Simplify" brochures available. To request one for your family, just call 317-858-6070.



WHAT'S WRONG

Hunter was in a hurry when he filled in the blanks and he didn't check his work. Six of the terms don't match the definitions!

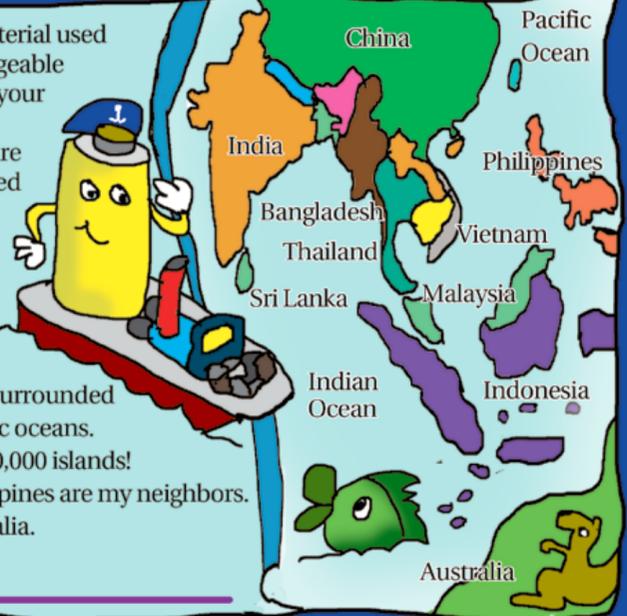
Instructions: Look at each definition. If the term is not correct, cross it out and write the correct term. (Hint: You will use each term only once.)

- | | |
|------------|---|
| food chain | 1. group of living things in which the first is eaten by the second, the second by the third, and so on |
| decomposer | 2. breaks down dead organisms |
| ecology | 3. all living and nonliving things in an area |
| predator | 4. animal that is hunted by another animal |
| consumer | 5. lives off another living thing and is harmful to it |
| producer | 6. makes its own food using sunlight |
| ecosystem | 7. study of interactions between living things and their environment |
| parasite | 8. animal that captures other animals for food |
| prey | 9. gets its food from plants and/or animals |
| food web | 10. complex series of food chains |

- Bonus:**
- When a hawk captures a chipmunk, is the hawk predator or prey? _____
 - What is the chipmunk? _____
 - Is a sunflower a producer or a consumer? _____
 - In a compost pile, is a worm a consumer or a decomposer? _____
 - Could the hawk, chipmunk, sunflower, and worm be part of a food chain? _____

Where in the world?

Nickel is the dominant material used to make the kind of rechargeable batteries you might use in your game controllers or toys. Using the clues below, figure out which country produced the most nickel in 2017 at about 400,000 metric tons and then circle it on the map.



- Clues:**
- I sit along the equator, surrounded by the Indian and Pacific oceans.
 - I am made up of over 10,000 islands!
 - Malaysia and the Philippines are my neighbors.
 - I am just north of Australia.

Answer: _____

Something's Missing

Instructions: Fill in the missing vowels to read the message.

Wh n t s t m f r h l d y sh pp ng,
 my f m ly h ads t a s c ndh nd
 st r . v ry ye r, w f nd l ts
 f gr at g fts.

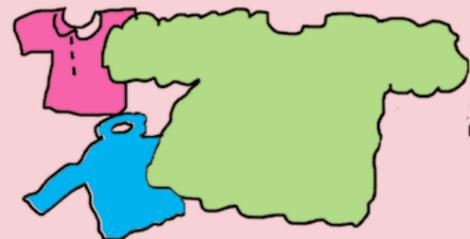


DARE TO COMPARE

Instructions: Use the clues to find the correct answers. Show your work.

The letter S stands for the number of old sweaters Olivia donated last week.

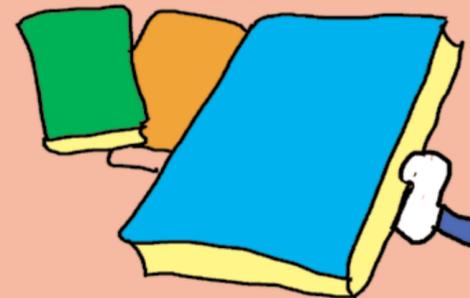
- Clues:**
- $S + S + S \leq 24$
 - $S > 5$
 - S is an even number.
 - 3 is a factor of S.



- Based on the first two clues, make a list of all possible answers. _____
- Using the third clue, list the possible answers. _____
- What is S? _____
- Did you need to use all four clues? _____

The letter B stands for the number of books that Isaac borrowed from the library.

- Clues:**
- $B > 12 + 13$
 - B is not an even number.
 - $B \leq 30$
 - 9 is not a factor of B.
 - B is a prime number.



- To find B, which clue would you use first? _____
- Which clue would you use second? _____
- What is B? _____
- Did you need to use all clues to find the answer? _____

LITERALLY

An idiom is a phrase whose meaning doesn't match the literal meaning of the words that make it up. Idioms have a cultural meaning (a meaning shared and accepted by a group of speakers), but not a literal one. We also call idioms "figures of speech."



Instructions: In each paragraph, circle the idiom and then explain what it means.

- Diego's mom said, "I refuse to pay an arm and a leg for bottled water when we can refill our own bottles with perfectly fine tap water each day."

- At school, Amy has her finger in every pie. She leads the Green Team and the Recycling Club, sings in the choir, serves as class president, and plays soccer.

- When Sofia was planning the swap meet for toys and games at school, she had to cut through a lot of red tape.

Bonus: Write a sentence that includes "pay an arm and a leg" and "repair."

Supplying the Demand

Instructions:
 Circle the correct answer:

If more sweaters are donated to a thrift shop than it normally sells, what will happen to the price of sweaters at the thrift shop?

- Stay the same Increase Decrease



Borrow books from our free environmental lending library

Did you know that the District has an Environmental Lending Library full of great books with ideas for reducing waste throughout the year? We have books about making crafts and science projects from trash, creating less food waste, composting, and more. Take some time this winter to come in to our office (104 E. Main Street, Brownsburg) and check out some books, curl up in a cozy place, and read.



Recycle: Heart and Sole shoe recycling drive

Start gathering your unwanted and worn shoes to donate to those in need. Again this year, the District will be teaming up with local schools and Changing Footprints for the "Recycle: Heart and Sole" shoe collection. Shoes will be collected February 10-14, 2020.

Ask your teacher or principal if your school can participate, and have them contact Amy Siefertman at asiefertman@HendricksSolidWaste.com for details. If your school doesn't take part, you can drop off shoes during the collection week at the Hendricks County Solid Waste Management District office, located at 104 E. Main Street, Brownsburg.



purchase new and/or used video games for your older gaming systems. When you are tired of your older games, some stores will buy them back from you and you could use the money to try out more.

When you do get new electronic devices, never throw the old ones into the trash. The materials inside them can cause pollution in landfills but can be useful in making new devices. Consider giving your old devices to someone else. You could donate them to an organization like a community center. You might sell them to a friend or to a store like GameStop. You can even learn online how to take them apart and rebuild them if you are interested.

Finally, if you have old electronic gadgets that you aren't using, recycle them. To find a place in Hendricks County to properly recycle cell phones, batteries, iPods/MP3 players, tablets, computers, and TVs, visit our searchable online "Recycling Guide" at www.HendricksSolidWaste.com.



Reuse in Hendricks County at these locations

Secondhand and Consignment Shops

Room Swap Consignments –

www.Facebook.com/RoomSwapConsignments

Kids Go Round – www.kidsgoround.net

Goodwill (Avon, Brownsburg, Plainfield) – www.goodwill.org

Half Price Books – www.hpb.com

Repair Shops

Cell Phone Repair

Fix My Cell – www.fixmycellonline.com

The iShop – www.theishoprepair.com

Bicycle Repair

Gear Up Cyclery – www.gearupcyclery.com

Computer Repair

There are many options for computer repair in Hendricks County.

Check online.

What's on your electronics wish list?

As you work on your holiday wish list, you might be dreaming of some new electronics. One of the best ways to reduce waste, however, is to use older electronic devices longer. Maybe you could add some technology-related fun to your wish list without asking for new devices.

Your wish list could include gift cards so you can download new music, games, books, or videos to your existing devices. Maybe someone could give you a subscription to a video streaming service, like Netflix or Hulu. You can



Be like Santa — reuse that bag!

Reusable shopping bags reduce clutter and make the holidays green! If your family doesn't have reusable bags, find or make some. Search around the house for extra tote bags or make your own bags out of old T-shirts (look online for instructions to "make a T-shirt bag"). Reusable T-shirt bags make great gifts, too!



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Funded by the Hendricks County Solid Waste Management District



HENDRICKS COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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