

Recycling and Conservation

Recycling: How It Works

When you throw your soda can into a recycling bin, you probably never think of where it has been or where it is going. Soda cans are one aluminum product that can be entirely recycled. Manufacturers will take that can from the bin. They will process the aluminum and make new cans or other products. How do other recycled materials get used?

Recycled materials make a variety of products. Paper can be recycled to make new paper and cardboard. Recycled paper is also used in **insulation**¹ and animal bedding. Glass is ground up to make new glass containers. It is also used as a **substitute**² for sand in concrete. There is also organic recycling. That is when plant and food scraps are recycled through composting. With composting, scraps are allowed to decay. Then they are added to soil to make it more fertile.

People are not the only ones who recycle. Many businesses recycle, too. Offices often have recycling bins for paper and cardboard. Cafeterias have **receptacles**³ designated for the recycling of cans and bottles. The soda cans that get recycled really add up. More than half of all aluminum soda cans in the United States are recycled. Recycling cans, instead of making new ones, saves factories a huge amount of energy. The amount of energy saved by one single 12-ounce soda could light a bulb for almost 4 hours! Recycling benefits the planet in a big way.

¹ **insulation:** material that stops heat, electricity, or sound from escaping

² **substitute:** used in place of

³ **receptacles:** containers

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Recycled paper can be made into
 - a. cardboard, insulation, and animal bedding
 - b. glass containers and sand in concrete
 - c. new cans and other products
 - d. recycled aluminum

2. How does the author organize the information in this passage?
 - a. The author lists the information in order of importance.
 - b. The author provides evidence to convince readers of his or her opinion.
 - c. The author describes a problem and several possible solutions.
 - d. The author discusses a main idea by using examples and related concepts.

3. Compared to recycling, the energy required to make a soda can from scratch uses
 - a. more power
 - b. less power
 - c. no power
 - d. the same amount of power

4. It can be concluded from information in the last paragraph that recycling is good for the Earth because it
 - a. creates a cycle
 - b. lights a bulb
 - c. saves energy
 - d. saves lives

5. At the end of the first paragraph, the author writes, “How do other recycled materials get used?” The author included this sentence to
 - a. transition the reader to the next paragraph, which answers the question
 - b. question the reader’s comprehension of the first paragraph
 - c. summarize the major points in paragraph one
 - d. create a mood of suspense within the passage

6. What is the main idea of this passage?

- a. Recycling involves the making of new products from materials that people and business have used.
- b. People and businesses can save money, time, and energy through recycling!
- c. Recycled paper can make cardboard and insulation, recycled glass can make new glass containers, and recycled plants and scraps can make new soil.
- d. When an aluminum can is recycled, manufacturers can process the aluminum and make new cans.

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Manufacturers will take a soda can from the bin, _____ process the aluminum and make new cans or other products.

- a. after
- b. then
- c. except
- d. but

8. Evidence from the third paragraph suggests that recycling can save energy. Why might businesses want to save energy?

9. Describe composting.

10. What can be concluded about the author's opinion of recycling? Use evidence from the passage to support your answer.

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 720

Featured Text Structure: Descriptive – the writer explains, defines, or illustrates a concept or topic

Passage Summary: In “Recycling & Conservation – Recycling: How It Works,” the author describes how things are recycled. The author also provides information on products made with recycled materials, composting, and steps businesses take to recycle.

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- d. but

8. Evidence from the third paragraph suggests that recycling can save energy. Why might businesses want to save energy?

Suggested answer: Businesses may want to save energy because doing so lowers the amount of money they spend on energy.

9. Describe composting.

Suggested answer: Composting is organic recycling. This means plants and food scraps are recycled by being allowed to decay. They are then added to soil to make it more fertile.

10. What can be concluded about the author's opinion of recycling? Use evidence from the passage to support your answer.

Suggested answer: Throughout the passage the author provides evidence suggesting that he or she has a positive opinion of recycling. The author lists many products that can be made from recycled materials, emphasizes the many uses of those products, and states the amount of energy saved from a single soda can. Then, in the last sentence, the author writes that recycling benefits the planet "in a big way." From this evidence it can be concluded that the author has a positive opinion of recycling.