

Name: _____

Date: _____

Where Does Recycling Go?

Grades 3-4

Nonfiction

- 1 When you drop a can or a cereal box into the recycling bin, its journey is just beginning.
- 2 First, a truck takes the recycling to a sorting center. There, machines and workers separate everything into groups: paper, cardboard, plastic, glass and metal.
- 3 Magnets pull out steel cans. Aluminum cans are separated too, then crushed into big blocks.
- 4 Next, each material is sent to a factory. Paper is mixed with water to make a mushy pulp, which is pressed and dried into new paper. Plastic bottles are chopped into small flakes and melted to make new things, like fleece jackets or new bottles.
- 5 Aluminum is one of the best materials to recycle. It can be melted and made into new cans again and again.
- 6 Recycling saves materials and energy, but it works best when the right things go into the bin. Rinse containers and check your town's rules, because a greasy pizza box or a plastic bag can jam the machines.

Draw something you learned from this text.

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Questions: Where Does Recycling Go?

Read the passage again if you need to. Circle the best answer.

1. What happens first at the sorting center?

☐ a Everything is melted

☐ c Cans are painted

☐ b Materials are separated into groups

☐ d Paper is burned

2. What pulls steel cans out of the recycling?

☐ a Water

☐ c Wind

☐ b Magnets

☐ d Nets

3. What can plastic bottles be turned into?

☐ a Fleece jackets

☐ c Paper

☐ b Glass jars

☐ d Aluminum cans

4. Why should you check your town's rules?

☐ a To win a prize

☐ c Recycling is not allowed

☐ b Some items can jam the machines

☐ d To pay a fee

5. Describe the steps that turn used paper into new paper.

Reading Comprehension: Answer Key

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1. b) Materials are separated into groups
2. b) Magnets
3. a) Fleece jackets
4. b) Some items can jam the machines
5. Sample answer: The paper is collected and sorted, then mixed with water to make pulp, which is pressed and dried into new paper.