

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.

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

Where Does Recycling Go?

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.