

Lesson overview: Discussion and learned information on recycling.

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Lesson Objective(s): Students will explore the definition of recycling. Students will discuss the concept of recycling materials and its meaning. They will discuss and learn about materials they can recycle in their everyday lives. Native Americans contributed to the concept of "recycling". Students will develop a list of materials that can be recycled and give examples.

"Recycling is the process of converting [waste](#) materials into new materials and objects. The [recovery of energy from waste materials](#) is often included in this concept. The recyclability of a material depends on its ability to reacquire the properties it had in its original state.^[1] It is an alternative to "conventional" waste disposal that can save material and help lower [greenhouse gas emissions](#). Recycling can prevent the waste of potentially useful materials and reduce the consumption of fresh raw materials, thereby reducing: energy usage, air pollution (from [incineration](#)), and water pollution (from [landfilling](#))". (www.wikipedia.com)

"Recyclable materials include many kinds of glass, paper, cardboard, metal, plastic, [tires](#), textiles, batteries, and [electronics](#). The [composting](#) or other reuse of [biodegradable waste](#)—such as [food](#) or [garden waste](#)—is also a form of recycling.^[5] Materials to be recycled are either delivered to a household recycling center or picked up from curbside bins, then sorted, cleaned, and reprocessed into new materials destined for manufacturing new products". (www.wikipedia.com)

Native Americans traditionally have always recycled and reused materials and animal parts as a way of their life. Plains Indians used every part of the buffalo. Most animals' parts were used for such things as tools, clothing, toys, ceremonial objects, weapons, etc. to name a few. Bones were used to make tools, weapons, and ceremonial objects. Hides were used to make clothing for everyone. The hides were also used to make such things as shelters, known as tipi's for Plains Indians. Fat was used for cooking with, making skin protections, and gel for hair. The Southern Tribes made pottery from the clay where they originated from. After a while, when that pottery got old and fell apart or broke, those tribes took those broken pieces of pottery, and recycled the clay and made other new products, such as jewelry, pots, and other tools that had a utilitarian purpose. Historically, Native Americans have always recycled their resources and traditional items they used for sustenance.

In today's modern throw away world, recycling and reusing are two ways society can be environmentally conscience. Have a teacher led discussion on recycling with students. Ask the students to list 5 ways they can recycle products they use daily. List and give an example of each item.

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

Another possible research topic is Native American uses of the Buffalo. Google

<https://allaboutbison.com/what-part-of-the-bison-was-used>. After reading and discussing the following information, write a paragraph about how Plains Indians used all the parts of a buffalo in your own words.

What did the Indians use from the buffalo?

The Indians used almost every piece of the buffalo in one way or another.

'It gave its life so Indians could live. The buffalo's generosity provided Indians with food and shelter. Indian people modeled the buffalo's generosity, and it became fundamental to the economy of the American Indian.'

Richard B. Williams ~Oglala Lakota

BONES	RAWHIDE	HORNS	BUCKSKIN	HAIR	FAT
Knives	Containers	Arrow Points	Winter Robe	Pillows	Tallow
Awls	Shields	Cups	Tipi Liners	Medicine Ball	Hair Grease
Quirts	Buckets	Fire Carrier	Tipi Cover	Doll Stuffing	Cosmetic Aids
Table Ware	Moccasin Soles	Powder Horn	Tapestries	Ropes	Soaps
Tools	Drums	Spoons	Sweat Lodge Cover	Hair Piece	Pemmican Wasa
Shovels	Splints	Ladles	Shirts	Ornaments	Lubricant
Scrapers	Mortars	Headdress	Quivers	Moccasin Lining	Candle Tallow
Pipes	Cinche	Signals	Moccasin Top	Pad Filler	Back Fat (Special)
Sleds	Ropes	Toys	Leggins	Halters	
Saddle Tree	Sheaths	Medication	Dresses	Bracelets	
Fleshing Tools	Saddles	Scoops	Cradles	Headdress	
Paint Brush	Saddle Blanket	Combs	Bridles		
Splints	Stirrups		Belts		
Arrowheads	Bull Boats		Bedding		
War Clubs	Masks		Bags		
Game Dice	Par Fleche		Backrest		
Toys	Ornaments				
Tools	Lariat				
Shields	Straps				
Fertilizer	Caps				
	Quirt				
	Snowshoes				
	Shrouds				
	Water Trough				

“The Buffalo was part of us, his flesh and blood being absorbed by us until it became our own flesh and blood. Our clothing, our tipis, everything we needed for life came from the buffalo’s body. It was hard to say where the animals ended and the human began.”

(John (Fire) Lame Deer, Oglala- Lame Deer Seeker of Visions, with Richard Erdoes, 1972)

CHIPS	TEETH	TAIL	HOOVES & DEW CLAWS	MUSCLE	SCROTUM
Fuel	Ornaments	Medicine Switch	Glue	Glue	Containers
Smoke Signals	Jewelry	Decorations	Rattles	Bows	Rattles
Early Tanning		Whips	Spoons	Thread	
Ceremonial Incense		Fly Brush	Wind Chimes	Arrow-Ties	
Stacked for Barrier/ppl		Game Wheel	Ceremonies	Cinches	
Marking Sites				Webbing Snowshoes	
Powdered – Absorbent				Jerky	

The Daily Republican, June 19, 1885
KILLED FOR THEIR HIDES

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At nearly every station on the railroad, last year could be seen piled up for shipment the chaotic anatomy of thousands of buffaloes. Cattlemen were paid \$2 and \$3 a wagon load for them Cowboys with little else to do, and even lazy Indians with an eye to the almighty dollar went into the scavenger business and collected buffalo bones for lucre. For months car load after car load, to the number of thousands, passed eastward to Minnesota, Indiana, and Illinois, where they were turned to account as fertilizers. Even the skulls and bones that surveyors have stood up as sighting points have been picked up and carted off, such is the demand for them. Delivered at the factories the farmers are worth \$25 a ton, the freight charges ranging from \$8 to \$10 per ton. Horns alone bring \$40 a ton and are extensively used by makers of umbrellas and fans. From a portion of the head, glue is obtained, and the neck bones and shoulder blades are worked up into the popular buffalo horn buttons. A great many of our buffalo bones, horns, and hoofs are annually shipped to England, and, after being turned over once or twice by the cutlery factories of Sheffield, come back to us in the shape of fine knife handles and other articles of finished cutlery. England also imports great quantities of beef shanks for the manufacturing of fertilizers.

TENDONS	BEARD	SKULL	TONGUE	GALL	BLOOD	PAUNCH (Rumen)
Sewing	Ornaments	Sun Dance	Prime Meat	Yellow Paints	Soups	Wrappings (Meat)
Bowstrings	Dolls	Medicine Prayers	Comb (rough side)	Bile – Condiment (mustard)	Puddings	Buckets
	Mittens	Rituals	Special Treat		Paints	Collapsible Cups
						Basins
						Canteens

(<https://allaboutbison.com/what-part-of-the-bison-was-used>)