Recycle Relay

Goals: To quiz knowledge on what is recyclable, compostable or garbage by getting all the different items in the appropriate bin.

Age Group: Grades 4-5

Time: 15-20 minutes

Materials: Recyclable, Compostable and Garbage items (Note: there is a suggestion list attached for each type), 2 large sacks for putting items in, 2 garbage bins, 2 recycle bins, 2 compost bins.

Game Set-up: Fill each sack with various recycle, compost and garbage items. On one end of a room, place a set of recycle, compost and garbage bins in one corner and place the other set in the other corner. At the other end of the room, place each sack directly across from each set of bins.

Procedures:

- Have a discussion about types of recyclable and compostable items. What defines an item that can be composted? What defines an item that can be recycled? What constitutes garbage? Also, discuss why it is important to recycle or compost these items and what benefits it has to the Earth.
- Then divide participants into 2 teams.
- Explain that each team will be given a sack that has various recyclable, compostable and garbage items to be put in the bins at the far end.
- Tell them that they will be working in relay teams to see which group can sort out the materials in their sacks more successfully. Ready, Set, Go!
- After each team has finished, check to see if they sorted materials correctly.
- If they put items in the wrong bin, ask why they think the item belongs in that bin.
- Make sure they understand why the item does not go in that bin and tell them which bin it belongs in.
- The team with the most items sorted correctly wins!
Recyclable Items

Aluminum cans or foil (clean), plastic bottles and containers, office/school paper, rechargeable batteries, cardboard, glass bottles and jars, CFL bulbs, brown paper bags, magazines/catalogs, newspapers, tin and steel cans (food/juice), boxes from cake mixes, cereal, toothpaste, pasta and other dry goods, ink jet cartridges, packing peanuts, phone books, plastic cups

Compostable Items

Coffee filters, tea bags, used paper napkins, wine corks, paper egg cartons, wooden toothpicks, paper cupcake or muffin cups, 100% cotton balls, toilet paper, leaves, flowers, fruits, vegetables, grass clippings, cooked pasta, egg shells, potato peels, orange peels, popsicle sticks, bread.