

Take Care of Our Planet

Keep Earth Clean. You can help solve the trash problem.

Our trash is piling up. Each American throws away an average of about 4½ pounds every day. That adds up to more than 1,600 pounds of trash per person every year!

The trash includes bottles, cans, boxes, paper, tires, and much more. Much of it ends up in **landfills**. Those are places where people dump trash.

April 22 is Earth Day. The day reminds people to take care of the earth. People can help by following the three Rs—reduce, reuse, and recycle.



Britt Erianson/Getty Images

Many types of plastics can be recycled.

Reduce

You can **reduce** the amount of trash you throw away. *Reduce* means "to make less." Here are some ways to make less trash:



FoodPix/Jupiter Images

- Use less paper by writing on both sides of each sheet.
- Instead of throwing out old toys or clothes, sell or donate them.
- If you buy something, don't ask for a paper or plastic bag. Instead bring your own cloth bag.

Recycle

You can **recycle**. When something is recycled, it is made into something new. Here are some items that can be taken to a recycling center.



Image Source/Getty Images

- cardboard
- aluminum cans

- paper
- certain plastics
- glass bottles
- newspaper

Reuse

You can try to **reuse** things before you throw them in the trash. *Reuse* means "to use again." Here are some examples:



Alistair Berg/Getty Images

- Use an old T-shirt as a dust cloth.
- After opening a gift, save the wrapping paper and use it again.
- Make an art project using odds and ends such as string, bottle caps, and scraps of paper.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What do "the three Rs" stand for?
2. This article describes the "trash problem." What is the trash problem?
3. Peter decided to stop using the plastic bags at the grocery store. Instead, he started bringing his own cloth bags. Based on the information in the text, which of the three Rs was he following?
4. What is this article mostly about?
5. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Earth Day happens once a year, _____ you can follow the three R's every day.

- A. because
- B. so
- C. but

6. Which container should you use to get rid of a plastic bottle?

