



Winter 2013

Create Memories Without Creating a Mess!

Holidays can be exciting, but they can also leave behind a lot of extra trash. You and your family might end up with wrapping paper, holiday cards, leftover food, decorations, and maybe unwanted gifts. What are you supposed to do with all of that stuff? After a celebration, you may look around and wonder what to give away, what to return, what to recycle, and what to toss into the trash.



If your family is hosting a party, try to make it a low-waste celebration! Make sure you know how many people are coming so that your family doesn't buy or make too much food. If you do have leftovers, put them in reusable containers to send home with guests or to keep in your own refrigerator. For less waste, set the table with real dishes, glasses, and silverware instead of paper or plastic. During the party, put recycling bins next to trash cans so that your guests can recycle bottles and cans. Make signs for your recycling bins so your guests know what to do!

On your gift-giving list, think about low-waste gifts, which are often the most meaningful.

Offer the gift of service to your parents or grandparents, like vacuuming out the car, mowing the lawn, pulling weeds in the garden, or taking care of the dog. Give the promise of a shared adventure, such as a walk on your favorite beach, a bike ride along West Cliff, or a walk on the Redwood trail at Henry Cowell State Park. For more local adventures, give gift cards for stand-up paddle board lessons at the harbor, bowling at Boardwalk Bowl, miniature golf at Neptune's Kingdom, or rock climbing at Pacific Edge.

After all of the celebrations are over, your parents might be able to help you return an unwanted gift to the store to exchange for something that you like better. If you won't use and can't return a gift, re-gift it to a friend or donate it

to a charitable organization. Why let something sit unused in your room when someone else might love to have it? You also might want to donate older, gently used items that have been replaced by your new stuff. For example, maybe you got a new version of your favorite game and no longer need the "junior" version. Give it away so that someone else can enjoy it and create their own great memories.



Skateboard Recycling

Think beyond bottles and cans when it comes to recycling. There may be items that you have around the house that are broken or not being used. Those items just might have another use. One is skateboards! The decks are made from seven layers of wood, often in crazy, bright colors. About two million skateboard decks are thrown away in the U.S. every year. All



of those ridden, broken, worn-out skateboards are headed to the landfill. Our local skate shop "Bill's Wheels" has a better idea. They will take your old broken board and make something new out of it. Boards can be made into all sorts of things like lamps, bookshelves, jewelry, and belt buckles. If you get a new board during the holidays, why not donate your old one? Bill's Wheels will find a new home for your skateboard or take it apart and add the pieces to their spare parts box. Kids can search the box for spare parts to fix up their own skateboards. So, if you enjoy riding your skateboard, why not recycle it at Bill's Wheels when you are done with it!

Broken Glass Gets a New Life!



Mission Hill students are at it again. They created another set of 92 amazing mosaics out of hundreds, even thousands, of tiny pieces of broken glass. Half of the glass used in the mosaics was scrap from local stained glass artists. The theme for the project was marine life of the Pacific Ocean. About 150 students designed and made mosaics depicting everything from sharks and whales to jellies and sea stars. The mosaics were installed by a team of volunteers on the Laurel



Street Bridge that spans the San Lorenzo River. Take a walk across the bridge to see all the mosaics up close—it's worth the trip! Students are proud to have something they made by hand become public art that can be enjoyed for years to come. The ocean mosaic project was funded by the Santa Cruz City Council and the Arts Council.

I NEED IT!

Instructions:
 A "need" is something you must have to survive and grow.
 A "want" is something you would like to have. To decide whether something is a want or a need, you must consider your situation and your resources (money and time, for example). Read the statements below and decide whether the item is a want or a need in each situation.

- If you have an MP3 player that works, a new MP3 player is a _____.
- If your glasses broke and you can't see without them, new glasses are a _____.
- A third pair of tennis shoes is a _____.
- If you outgrow your winter coat, a new coat is a _____.
- A new video game is a _____.
- When your family shops for weekly groceries, vegetables are a _____.

Bonus: If you have outgrown your winter coat, you don't have to buy a brand-new one. List some places where you might get a gently used winter coat that is the right size and new to you.

WHAT'S WRONG?

Hunter was in a hurry when he filled in the blanks and he didn't check his work. Some of the terms don't match the definitions!

Instructions: Look at each definition. If the term is not correct, cross it out and write the correct term. (Hint: You will use each term only once.)

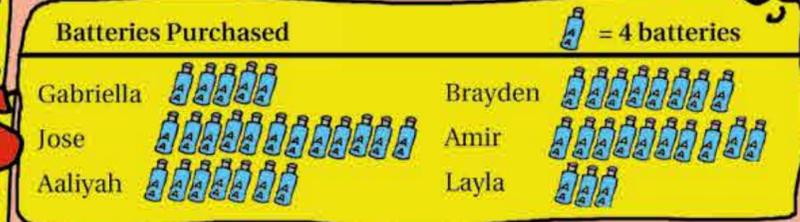
- | | |
|------------------|---|
| _____ ecosystem | 1. group of living things in which the first is eaten by the second, the second by the third, and so on |
| _____ decomposer | 2. breaks down dead organisms |
| _____ ecology | 3. all living and nonliving things in an area |
| _____ predator | 4. animal that is hunted by another animal |
| _____ consumer | 5. lives off another living thing and is harmful to it |
| _____ producer | 6. makes its own food using sunlight |
| _____ food chain | 7. study of interactions between living things and their environment |
| _____ prey | 8. animal that captures other animals for food |
| _____ parasite | 9. gets its food from plants and/or animals |
| _____ food web | 10. complex series of food chains |

Bonus:
 When a hawk captures a chipmunk, is the hawk predator or prey? _____
 What is the chipmunk? _____
 Is a sunflower a producer or a consumer? _____
 In a compost pile, is a worm a consumer or a decomposer? _____
 Could the hawk, chipmunk, sunflower, and worm be part of a food chain? _____

BATTERY BUYERS

Without batteries, every device that needs electricity would have to be plugged in to work. Batteries have chemicals inside that react with each other to create electricity. This electricity powers devices like remote controls, game controllers, iPods/MP3 players, portable DVD players, tablets, and laptop computers. Some batteries run down and then need to be replaced. Others can be recharged and used again and again.

Use the graph to answer the questions below:



- Who bought the most batteries? _____
- Who bought the fewest batteries? _____
- How many batteries did Brayden buy? _____
- How many batteries did Gabriella purchase? _____
- If each battery cost \$1.25, how much did Layla spend on batteries? _____
- How many more batteries did Amir buy than Aaliyah? _____
- How many total batteries were purchased? _____

Bonus: List nine battery-operated items, such as toys, games, controllers, cell phones, tablets, or iPods/MP3 players, that you use regularly at home or at school:

DARE TO COMPARE

The letter S stands for the number of old sweaters that Olivia donated last week.

- Clues:**
- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| A. $S + S + S \leq 24$ | C. S is an even number. |
| B. $S > 5$ | D. 3 is a factor of S. |

- Based on the first two clues, make a list of all possible answers. _____
- Using the third clue, list the possible answers. _____
- What is S? _____
- Did you need to use all four clues? _____

The letter B stands for the number of books that Isaac borrowed from the library.

- Clues:**
- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| A. $B > 12 + 13$ | D. 9 is a not factor of B. |
| B. B is not an even number. | E. B is a prime number. |
| C. $B \leq 30$ | |

- To find B, which clue would you use first? _____
- Which clue would you use second? _____
- What is B? _____
- Did you need to use all of the clues to find the answer? _____

LITERALLY?!

An idiom is a phrase whose meaning doesn't match the literal meaning of the words that make it up. Idioms have a cultural meaning (a meaning shared and accepted by a group of speakers), but not a literal one. We also call idioms "figures of speech."

Instructions: In each paragraph, circle the idiom and then explain what it means.

- Jonathan's mom said, "I refuse to pay an arm and a leg for bottled water when we can refill our own bottles with tap water each day."

- At school, Makayla has her finger in every pie. She leads the Green Team and the Recycling Club, sings in the choir, serves as class president, and plays basketball.

- When Sofia was planning the swap meet for toys and games, she had to cut through a lot of red tape.

Bonus: Write a sentence that includes "pay an arm and a leg" and "repair."

SOMETHING'S MISSING

Instructions: Fill in the missing vowels to read the message.

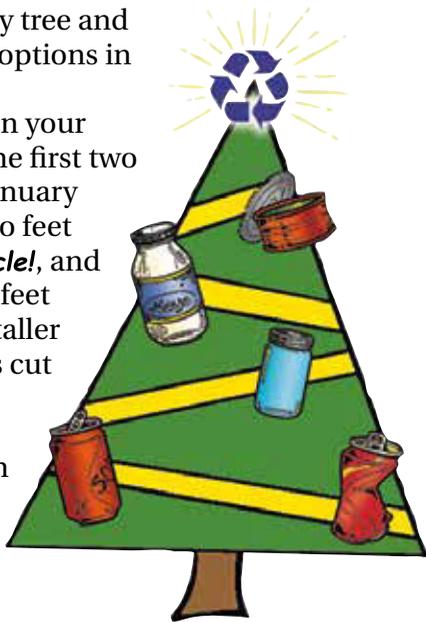
Wh_n t_s t_m_f_r h_l_d_y sh_pp_ng, my f_m_ly
 he_ds t_a sec_ndh_nd st_r. _v_ry y_ar, w_f_nd l_ts _f
 gre_t g_fts. L_st ye_r, w_g_t _sw_at_r_f_r my gr_ndm_.
 W_b_ught my gr_ndp_a DVD _f_h_s_f_v_r_t_m_v_e.
 I p_ck_d _ut bo_ks_f_r my d_d, wh_l_v_s_t_r_ad.
 I ch_s_a g_m_ _nd w_od_n bl_cks_f_r my br_th_r
 _nd s_st_r. F_r my m_m, _p_ck_d_o_t_a
 n_ckl_c_ _nd br_c_l_t.

GAME

Don't Waste Your Greens!

Help your family recycle your holiday tree and other greenery. Here are three FREE options in the City of Santa Cruz.

1. **Curbside:** Place your tree out on your regular collection day during the first two weeks of January 2014; that's January 1st–14th. Place trees at least two feet away from your trash, *GreenCycle!*, and recycle carts. Trees must be six feet in length or less; if your tree is taller than six feet, have your parents cut it into shorter pieces.
2. **GreenCycle! Cart:** Cut greens to fit into the *GreenCycle!* cart with the lid closed. Material should be loose so that it will slide out easily when the cart is emptied.
3. **Drop-Off:** Take your tree or greenery to the Resource Recovery Facility, 605 Dimeo Lane, during regular hours in January. Drop-off is free only for the month of January!

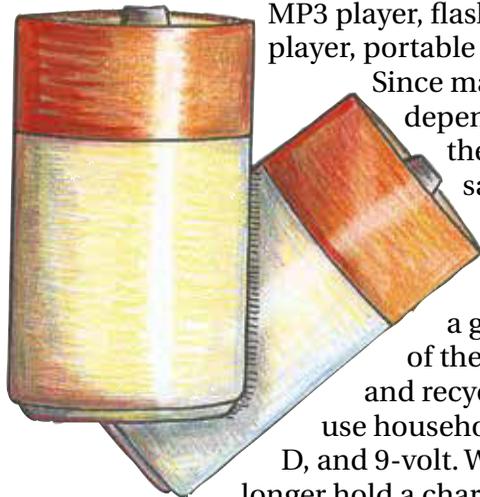


Trees must be free of ornaments, lights, tinsel, and tree stands. And please, no flocked trees. The sprayed-on fake snow cannot be turned into mulch.

If you have a compost bin, you can also compost your holiday greens in your own backyard!

Recharge and Recycle

Stop and ask yourself: How many of the things that you own take batteries? Batteries might be in your remote control, phone, iPod/MP3 player, flashlight, calculator, personal DVD player, portable game player, tablet, and more.



Since many of the things you enjoy depend on batteries for power, make the most of your batteries—you'll save energy and reduce waste.

Used batteries are considered hazardous waste in California and may not go in the trash. For a great winter project, collect all of the "dead" batteries in your house and recycle them! You can collect single-use household batteries, such as AA, AAA, C, D, and 9-volt. When rechargeable batteries no longer hold a charge, be sure to recycle them, too.

Drop off household batteries at one of these locations in the City of Santa Cruz:

- Downtown Public Library, 224 Church Street
- Branciforte Public Library, 230 Gault Street
- Garfield Park Public Library, 750 Woodrow Avenue
- Louden Nelson Center, 301 Center Street
- City of Santa Cruz Public Works, 809 Center Street, Room 201
- City Hall – Locust Street parking lot trash enclosure has a battery bin available 24/7.
- Resource Recovery Facility, 605 Dimeo Lane, Monday through Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Note: Businesses that sell rechargeable batteries must take them back for recycling.



Cell Solutions

In the United States, there are more cell phones than people. On top of that, the average cell phone is used for just 18 months. Every year, 152 million phones are discarded because they are damaged or replaced by a newer model.

Here in Santa Cruz, we make it easy to recycle old cell phones. Each Santa Cruz Public Library branch has a bin for cell phone recycling. If you don't see the bin, just ask the librarian to point you in the right direction.

Win Cash for Your Class

Earth Day is a great time to think about the environment and come up with solutions to problems that we face. We invite your class to enter a project in next year's Earth Day Class Project Challenge. You just might win a cash prize of \$300, \$200, or \$100 for your class. Every year, classes from all over the City and County of Santa Cruz enter their projects and display them at Earth Day Santa Cruz. The public loves seeing what you are learning about at school and students love sharing their projects with the public and the judges! Earth Day will be held on Saturday, April 19, 2014. For more information call: 420-5449. See you there!

Brag Your Bag

Stores in Santa Cruz no longer provide customers with single-use plastic bags. We encourage residents to bring reusable shopping bags instead. So kids, do you remember to bring your own bag when you go to the store? Or do you remind your parents to bring their bags when they shop? Show off your favorite reusable bag! Send in a photo that shows you or someone in your family using your favorite bag this winter. You just might win a prize like an official City of Santa Cruz canvas bag! "Brag your Bag" by sending a photo to msimmons@cityofsantacruz.com by January 31, 2014. The winning photos will be featured in the spring issue of *Trash Talk!*



Funded by the City of Santa Cruz Public Works Department



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