



# Your Guide to Saving the Planet

*A Recycling Activity Book for Kids in Grades 4-6*



# “Recycling Isn’t Monkey Business!”

*Trash in the black barrel, recyclables in the blue barrel.*

Hey Kids!

I’m bananas about recycling!

Remember to recycle these items in your blue barrel! You can memorize them by saying them out loud in front of mom, dad, or even your family pet!



- Aluminum
- Cardboard and Paperboard Boxes
- Junk Mail
- Magazines and Telephone Books
- Metal Cans
- Milk and Juice Cartons
- Food and Beverage Glass Jars/Bottles
- Plastic Cups and Containers #1-#7
- Newspaper
- Paper



# Facts About Plastic

- According to the Beverage Marketing Corp., the average American consumed 1.6 gallons of bottled water in 1976. In 2006, that number jumped to 28.3 gallons.
- More than 2.4 billion pounds of plastic bottles were recycled in 2008. Although the amount of plastic bottles recycled in the United States has grown every year since 1990, the actual recycling rate remains steady at around 27 percent.
- In 2007, more than 325 million pounds of wide-mouth plastic containers were recovered for recycling. (This includes deli containers, yogurt cups, etc.)
- Plastics in the United States are made primarily (70 percent) from domestic natural gas.
- Plastic bags can be recycled at any participating retailer. They are not accepted in Mesa's blue barrel because they can clog the sorting equipment and slow down the recycling process.  
*(\* TIP: Skip the bag if you don't need it or use a reusable one instead!)*
- Recycling 1 ton of plastic saves 7.4 cubic yards of landfill space.

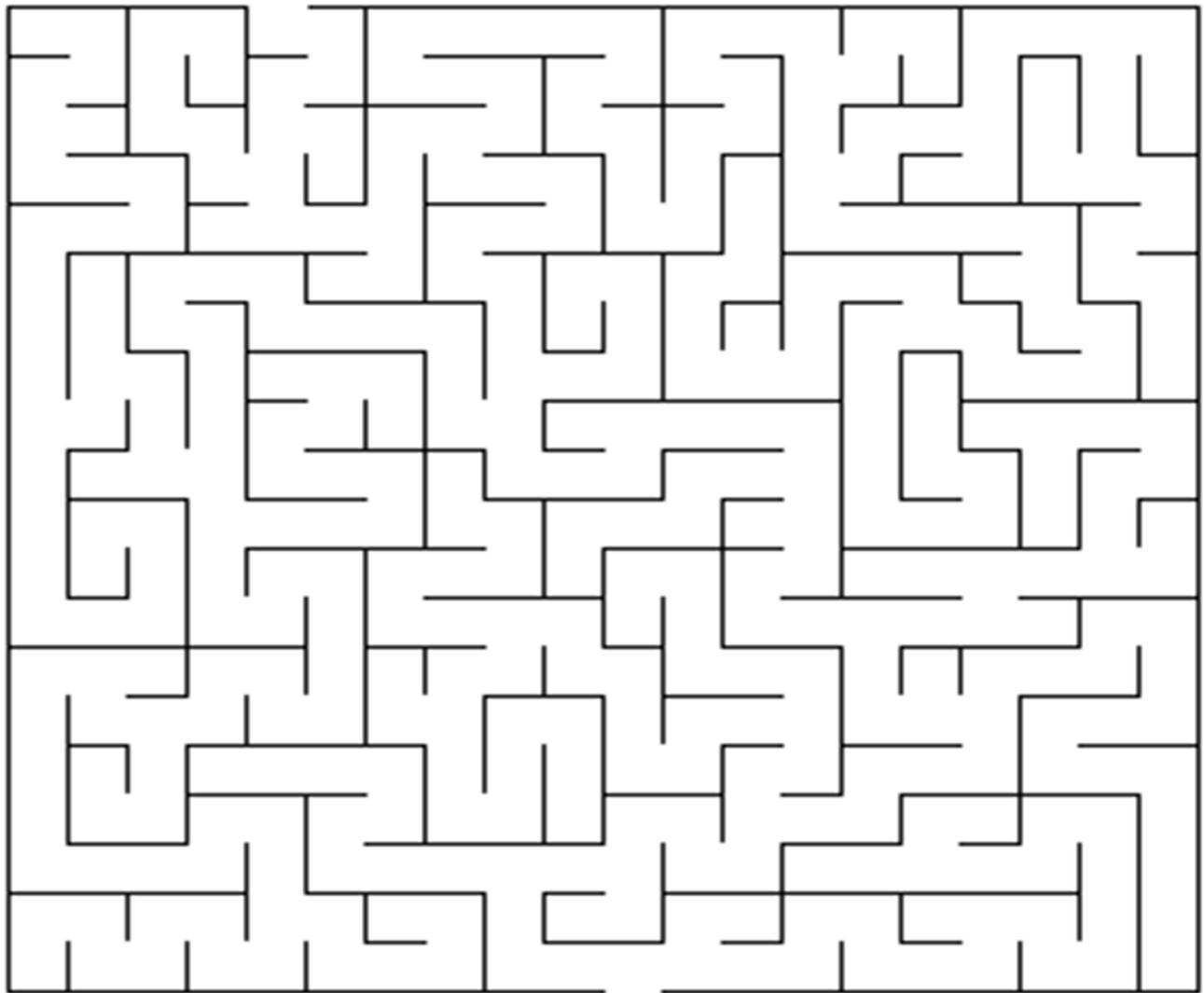


**Recycling Education Idea:** City of Mesa Solid Waste Outreach Staff is available to visit your school to talk about recycling.

For more information, have your teacher send an email to [waste.info@mesaaz.gov](mailto:waste.info@mesaaz.gov).

Source: [earth911.com](http://earth911.com)

# Help Charlie Take His Items To The Recycle Barrel



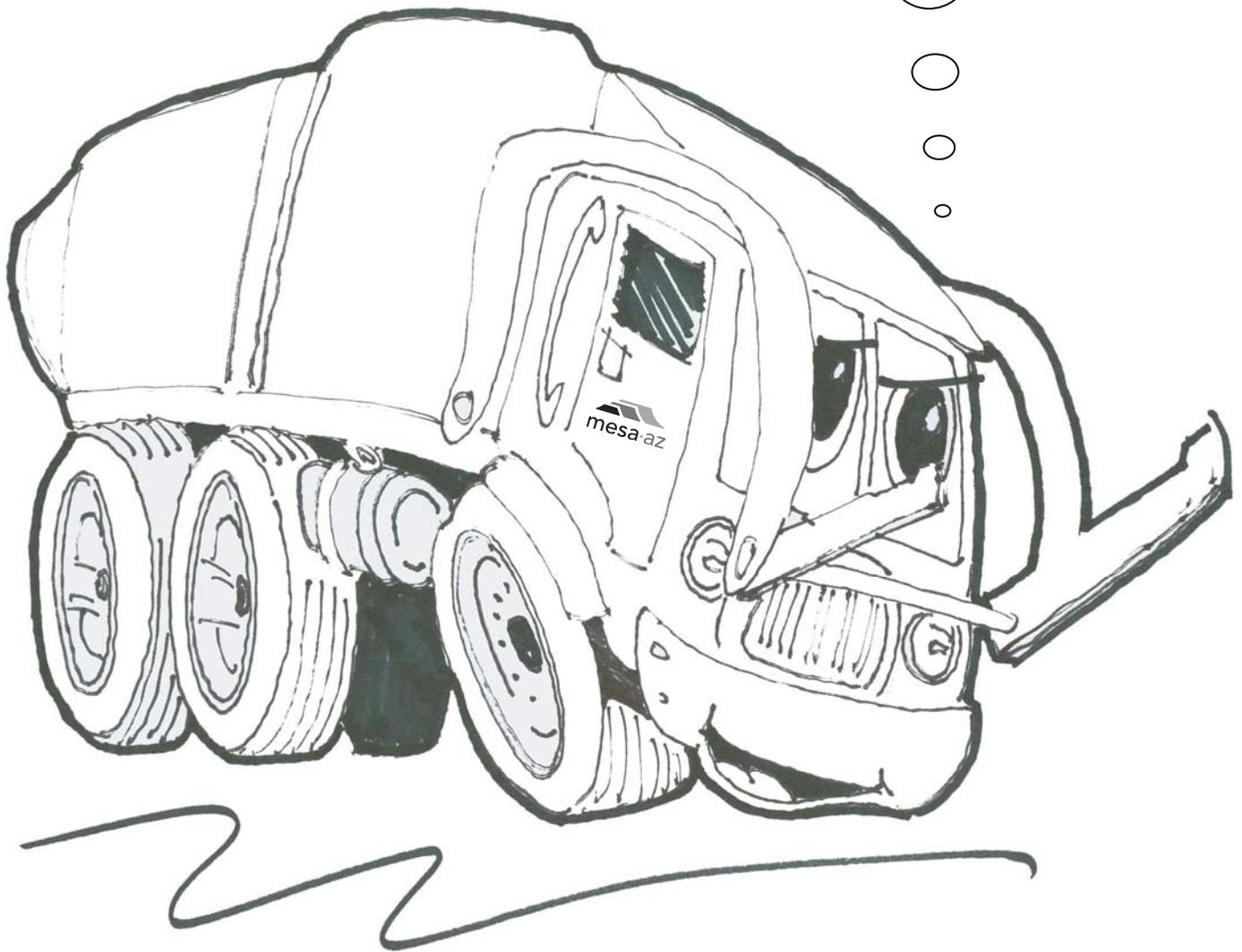
# Facts About Metal

- A used aluminum can is recycled and back on the grocery shelf as a new can in as little as 90 days.
- Aluminum is a durable and sustainable metal: 2/3 of the aluminum ever produced is still in use today.
- Every minute, an average of 113,204 aluminum cans are recycled.
- Making new aluminum cans from recycled cans takes 95 percent less energy than using new materials.
- 20 recycled cans can be made with the energy needed to produce 1 can using untapped natural resources.
- Recycling 1 aluminum can saves enough energy to keep a 100-watt bulb burning for almost 4 hours or run your television for 3 hours.
- Tossing away an aluminum can wastes as much energy as pouring out half of that can's volume of gasoline.
- Recycling steel saves 75 percent of the energy that would be used to create steel from raw materials, enough to power 18 million homes.
- 1 ton of recycled steel saves 2,500 pounds of iron ore, 1,400 pounds of coal and 120 pounds of limestone.



# Always Wave "HELLO" When You See A Mesa Recycle Truck!

Color Me!



## Truck Safety:

- Don't play near trucks
- Keep toys & bikes away from trucks
- Remind your friends and younger family members to stay back



# Facts About Glass

- Glass containers are 100 percent recyclable, can be recycled endlessly and recovered glass is used as the primary ingredient in new glass containers.
- An estimated 80 percent of recycled glass containers are made into new glass bottles.
- According to the EPA, 28.1 percent of all glass containers were recycled in 2007.
- Americans recycle nearly 1.3 million glass jars and bottles every day.
- Glass containers produced today are 40 percent lighter than they were 20 years ago, making them much easier to recycle.
- Every ton of glass that is recycled results in 1 ton of raw materials saved to process new glass, including: 1,300 pounds of sand, 410 pounds of soda ash and 380 pounds of limestone.
- Most recycling programs, including Mesa's, only accept glass containers that contained a food or beverage when they were originally purchased. Other glass products, such as drinking glasses, light bulbs, mirrors and Pyrex, are treated with contaminants when manufactured and therefore cannot be recycled.



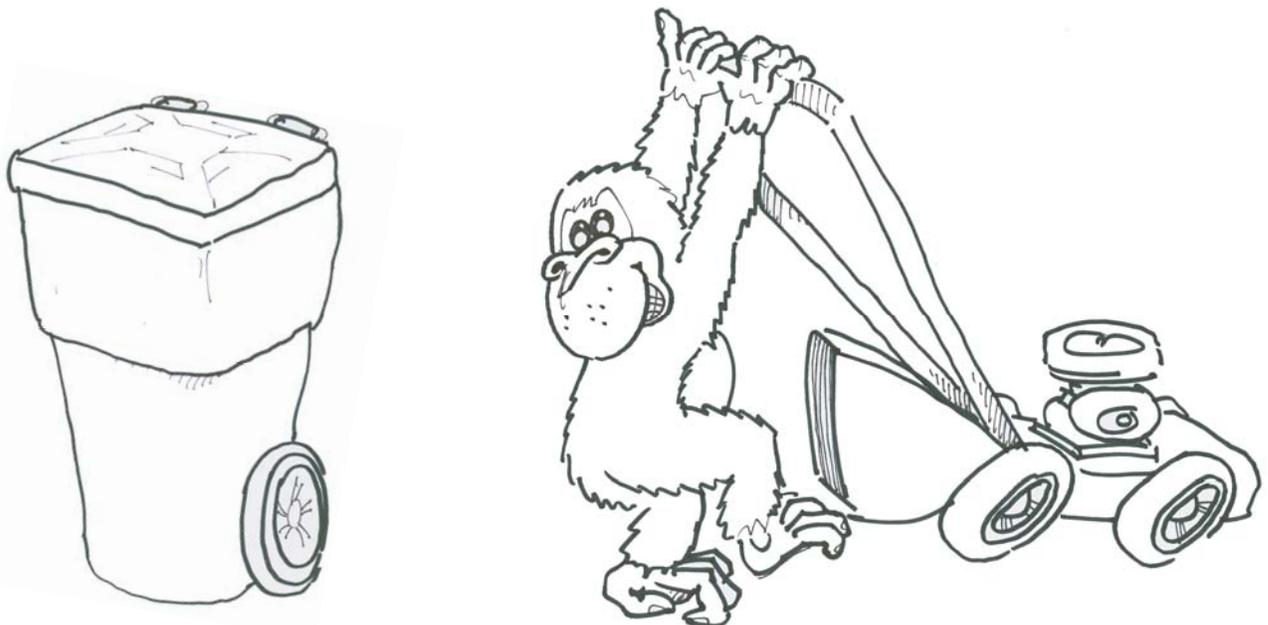
# Charlie Takes Care Of The Environment By...

Taking his tires, appliances, electronics, batteries, oil and paint to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event!



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Placing grass, leaves and small tree branches into his green yard waste barrel so it can be converted into mulch and kept out of the landfill.



# Facts About Paper

- In 2008, the amount of paper recovered for recycling averaged 340 pounds for every person in the United States.
- In 2008, a record-high 57.4 percent of the paper consumed in the United States was recovered for recycling.
- Every ton of paper recycled saves more than 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space.
- 1 million tons of recovered paper is enough to fill more than 14,000 railroad cars.
- More than 37 percent of the material used to make new paper products in the United States comes from recycled sources.



# Charlie's Word Scramble

1. Unscramble each of the clue words.
2. Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.

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**This is what we should do everyday!**

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*Hint: These words are in the scramble.*

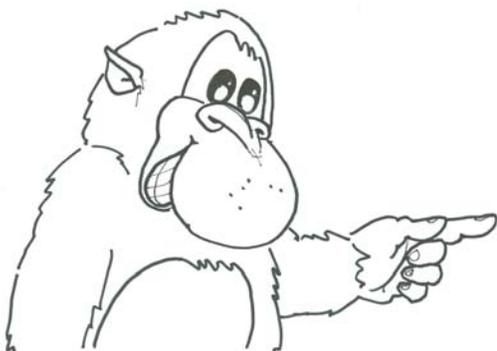
Conservation  
Disposable  
Energy  
Glass  
Landfill  
Metal

Natural Resources  
Paper  
Plastic  
Pollution  
Reusable

# Recycling Crossword Puzzle

Z I Z H F R U W R X N E W S P A P E R R  
V Z R F B B R C V U F B P L V V O Z D E  
F T A U R L H Q A P A P E R B O A R D D  
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B S G W D F E J J L A W J A E O O M S P  
F Z A C T V G J K A P E W D P S U G B G

See how many of these words you can find in this fun crossword puzzle!



- Aluminum
- Blue barrel
- Cardboard
- Glass jars
- Junk mail
- Magazines
- Metal cans
- Newspaper
- Paper
- Paperboard
- Plastic bottles
- Recycle
- Reduce
- Reuse
- Telephone books

# Please Remember To...

## REDUCE

## REUSE

## RECYCLE



City of Mesa Customer Service  
480.644.2221

[www.mesarecycles.org](http://www.mesarecycles.org)

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City of Mesa Solid Waste Equipment Operator II

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Las Sendas Elementary  
Mr. Tim Lorenzen



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