

RECYCLING LESSON PLANS

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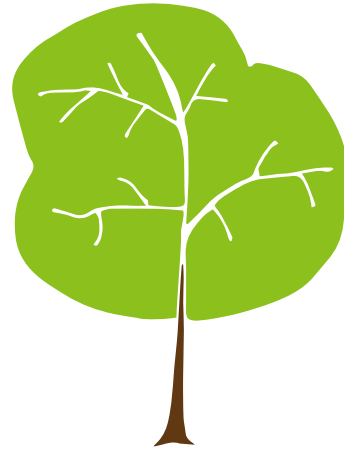


5E PRINTABLE LESSONS TO PROMOTE RECYCLING

Brought to you by WeAreTeachers and PepsiCo Recycling

Dear Educators,

You're teaching a generation of kids who will have a huge impact on our environmental future. Lessons about recycling, sustainability, and eco-friendly practices are incredibly important. To help bring these important topics to your classroom, we pulled together five complete lesson plans in the popular 5E lesson format. These lessons focus on key subject



areas like science, technology, and language arts. Through the easy-to-implement 5E model, you'll be able to incorporate these into units you already have planned for the year.

For even more resources, we recommend checking out the free lessons, articles, ideas, and printables on PepsiCo Recycling's website, [PepsiCoRecycling.com](https://www.pepsico.com/recycling). You can also sign up to participate in their recycling program for schools, Recycle Rally.

Thanks for all you do as educators in teaching our future generation.



THE BASICS OF 5E

The 5E model is an easy, hands-on way to create lesson plans for your classroom. You can either choose to do the activity in a single lesson, or you can spread it out over several days or weeks.

There's no perfect or right way to do these lessons. In fact, adapting them to work for you and your classroom needs is definitely recommended. Based on your students' age, interests, or the unit you're trying to cover, always adjust to make them work for you.

Best of all, they're designed to be printed on a single 8½ x 11 sheet of paper, making it even easier to incorporate into your daily lesson plans.

Engage: Introduce the topic.

In the engage area, introduce your students to the topic in a clear, concise way. Make sure all your students have a strong understanding of the main concepts before moving forward.

Explore: Go to the lab.

Now it's time to really get hands on with the lessons. This section includes an interactive activity where students get to put their own personal touch on the project.

Explain: Take notes.

The notes section, where students write about what they learn, is a feature in all the projects. This will help students grasp important concepts they've been putting into practice in the lab section.

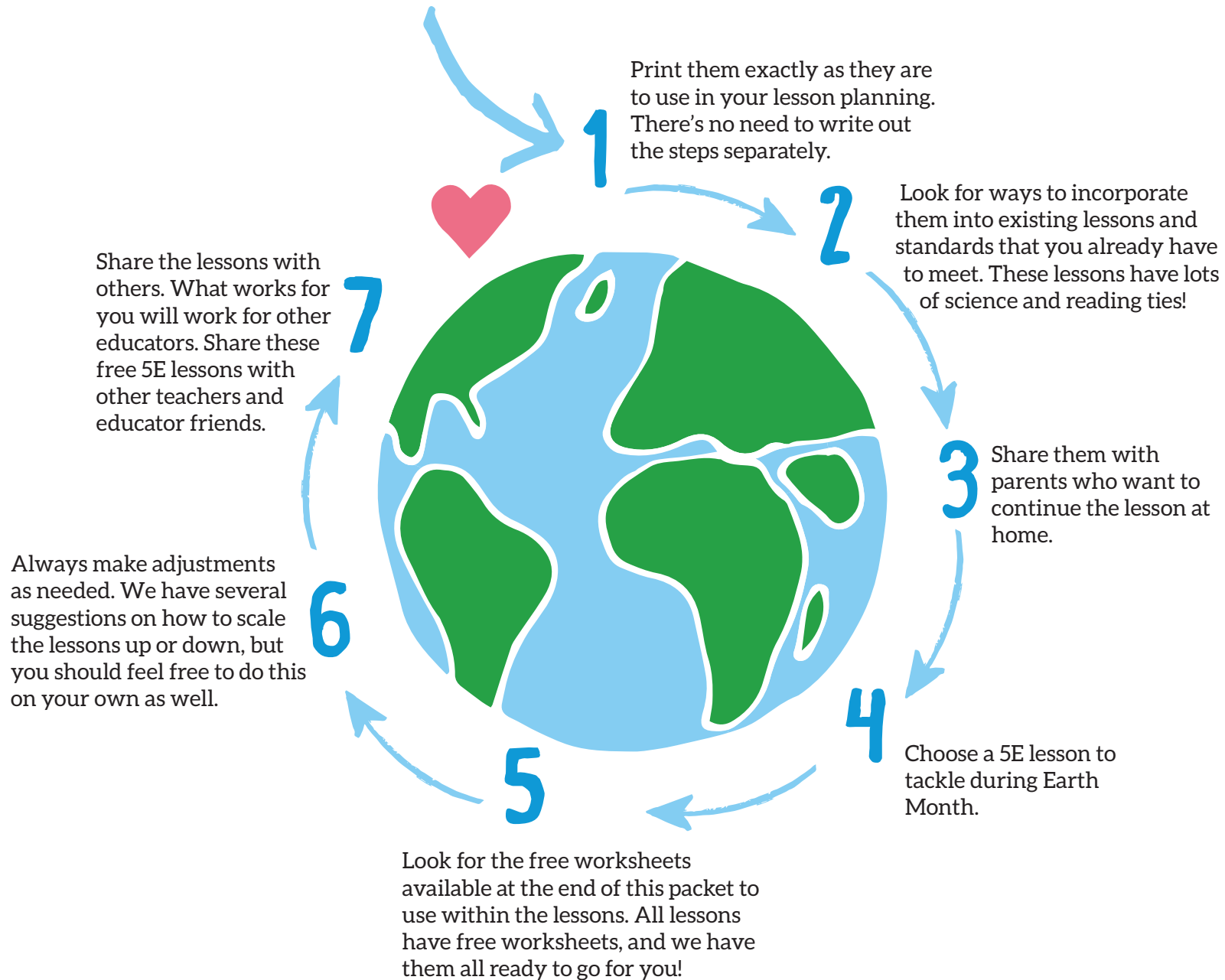
Elaborate: Review and extend.

This section checks for understanding, and then it encourages students (and you) to take it to the next level. What more can you do with this lesson? What questions have come up that you can tackle? This is a great place to grow.

Evaluate: Check for understanding.

Each lesson should have a follow-up to check for understanding. If much of your class didn't understand a key concept or takeaway, it might be time to go back to the lab or review and extend again.

7 TIPS FOR USING THE 5E LESSONS



Lesson 2

THE LIFE CYCLE OF RECYCLING

Students will mix science and language arts by using the process of recycling aluminum cans to explore transition words and paragraph organization.

Grades: 3–6

Core Concepts:
Recycling, Writing

Key Question: What are the steps for recycling aluminum cans?

MATERIALS »

- Pens and pencils
- Chart paper
- Markers
- “What Happens to Aluminum Cans?” worksheet

1 ENGAGE: INTRODUCE THE TOPIC

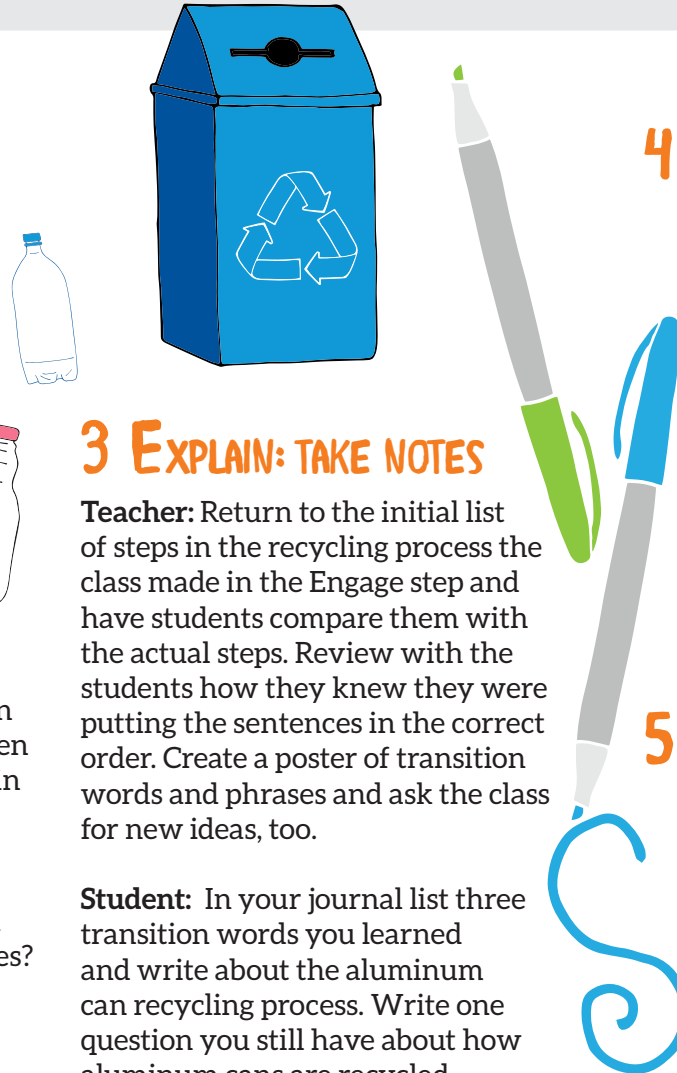
Teacher: What do students know about the process of recycling aluminum cans? Record what they think happens to an aluminum can once it is put in a recycling bin. Make sure to number what they believe are the steps in the process.

Student: Share what you know and ask any questions you have about the process of recycling aluminum cans.

2 EXPLORE: GO TO THE LAB

Teacher: Use the “What Happens to Aluminum Cans?” worksheet. For younger students, use an overhead projector. You can cut the worksheet up into sentences and then review as a group. Have students put them in the correct order. Older students can do the worksheet on their own or in small groups.

Student: Complete the worksheet. How did you know the correct order for the sentences? Did you use transition words to help you identify the correct order?



3 EXPLAIN: TAKE NOTES

Teacher: Return to the initial list of steps in the recycling process the class made in the Engage step and have students compare them with the actual steps. Review with the students how they knew they were putting the sentences in the correct order. Create a poster of transition words and phrases and ask the class for new ideas, too.

Student: In your journal list three transition words you learned and write about the aluminum can recycling process. Write one question you still have about how aluminum cans are recycled.

4 ELABORATE: REVIEW AND EXTEND

Teacher: Take a look at the remaining questions from your students. Tackle each question so students understand each step of the process of recycling aluminum cans. Introduce the next assignment to your students: writing a process paragraph.

Student: Brainstorm other processes you can write about. For example: How cheese is made, how to walk your dog, or how to brush your teeth. Write a clear paragraph, outlining the steps of the process you chose, using at least five transition words or phrases.

5 EVALUATE: CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Teacher: Work with students to rewrite and edit their process paragraphs, focusing on organization and transitions.

Student: Share your process paragraph with a classmate. Circle the transition words and phrases. Are the steps of the process clearly written and organized?

