

# Recycling

## Unit 4: Our Community



### Objectives

By the end of the lesson, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand recycling and how it relates to saving resources.
- b) Encourage activities related to waste-reduction.



### Instructions

1. Draw the Recycle Symbol on the board for the students. As you do so, ask them the following:
  - Does anyone know this symbol? What does it stand for?
  - What is the meaning of the three arrows?
  - What does recycling mean?
2. Explain that recycling means saving materials/resources that you have used and then using them again for a similar or different purpose.
3. Ask a student to read the Aflatoun story provided in the materials section.
4. Ask the students to sit down in a circle. As they do so, divide the board/flipchart into four columns, and give each column one of the following headings:
  - Recyclable material
  - Reasons to recycle/reuse
  - Benefits of recycling
  - Recycled product examples
5. Ask the students the following questions, and write their answers in the relevant column:
  - What kind of material(s) can be recycled/recyclable? Give examples.
  - Why do we recycle?
  - What are the benefits of recycling?
  - What are examples of products that can be made from recycled materials?
6. Next, have the students form groups and think of some products that they could create using recycled materials. Encourage them to make some of these products in their Aflatoun club.



### Materials: Aflatoun Recycling Story

Aflatoun asked Mel, Jol, and their friends to study all the garbage they see in their community and note down which garbage is decomposable and which is not. However, the children did not understand this point. So, Aflatoun explained to them “The stems or stalks of leafy vegetables, the skins of fruits etc. can be decomposed and these get blended in the soil easily. But plastic bags, tins, cans, tubes, containers, and all such things do not get decomposed or blend in the soil easily. This garbage will remain outside on the streets.

The children had now understood the point of decomposable garbage. Jol said, “That means all this garbage will remain outside? Then it will build up and one day there will be a mountain of garbage and we’ll have no place to live!”

Aflatoun said, “You are absolutely right. This is exactly what will happen.”

The children studied the garbage for eight days. They were shocked because they found out that most of the garbage from all the households was not decomposable. The children looked worried when Aflatoun met them after eight days, as they had no idea how to get rid of the garbage which was not decomposable. Aflatoun studied the list of garbage they had noted down. It included plastic and glass bottles, plastic bags, toothpaste tubes, tins, cans and much more.

Aflatoun asked them about solution to solve this problem but the children could not give any proper answer. Then Aflatoun gave them three formulae.

- 1) Use cloth bags instead of plastic bags. Use metal pots & vessels instead of plastic. And in some cases if this is difficult, then make minimum possible use of plastic and find other options.
- 2) Try to reuse the articles like putting marbles inside a used plastic bottle & using it like a rattle for small children. Do not buy more than required plastic & other articles.
- 3) Give the used articles which you do not require to other needy people who can use those.