

Your Actions Add UP!

A dime by itself may not seem very exciting, but a whole pile can add up to a lot. The same goes for recycling. You might not think that recycling one plastic bottle would make much difference, but if millions of people do it, it can have a big impact.

Speaking of dimes, did you know that the more wealth a country has, the more paper and plastic waste it produces? For wealthier nations, such as the U.S., that's an extra incentive to recycle.

Recycling saves resources, such as oil used to make plastics and trees used for paper. It can reduce use of landfills. It also conserves resources you might not think of—for example, recycling a ton of paper saves 7,000 gallons of water and enough energy to power an average U.S. home for six months! So spend your money wisely, and choose items that are recyclable. If we pool our efforts, we can keep Earth clean and healthy.

Sharpen your math skills by solving these problems.

- 1 An American household, on average, has 24 electronic devices. If 25% get recycled, how many is that?

$$\begin{array}{r} 24 \\ \times .25 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

= _____ devices

If three families recycle half of their electronics, how many would that be?

$$24 \div 2 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ devices}$$

_____ devices x 3 = _____

- 2 About 3 billion urban residents around the world throw away 2.6 lbs (1.2 kg) of trash per person per day. On average, how much trash does a person throw away each week?

$$\begin{array}{r} 2.6 \text{ lbs} \\ \times 7 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

= _____ lbs/week

In metric system:

$$\begin{array}{r} 1.2 \text{ kg} \\ \times 7 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

= _____ kg/week

- 3 If you recycle 364 bottles per year, how many bottles would you recycle each week?

$$364 \div 52 \text{ weeks}$$

= _____ bottles

If the 22 kids in your class did the same, how much would you all recycle in a year?

$$\begin{array}{r} 364 \\ \times 22 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

= _____ bottles

WHY DIDN'T THE MUMMY WANT A CELL PHONE? HE GOT TOO WRAPPED UP IN HIS CALLS!

IT CAN TAKE AT LEAST 10-20 YEARS FOR ONE PLASTIC BAG TO DECOMPOSE.

GLASS CONTAINERS CAN BE RECYCLED OVER AND OVER AGAIN. THIS BOTTLE HAS BEEN RE-RE-RE-RE-RECYCLED!

I'M SLIMMING DOWN! IN 1980, 89% OF WASTE IN THE U.S. ENDED UP IN LANDFILLS. BY 2010, IT WAS 54%. LET'S KEEP IT UP!