



TRICK OR TRASH

Recycling and The Circular Economy

About the authors



Created in partnership with the National Wildlife Federation’s education team and Rubicon’s sustainability team, this lesson plan will encourage deeper learning for students participating in the “Trick or Trash” Halloween candy wrapper recycling campaign. It is also valuable to any students learning about recycling, sustainability or environmental preservation.

To explore the National Wildlife Federation’s education programs, please visit <https://www.nwf.org/Educational-Resources/Education-Programs>. To explore National Wildlife Federation’s virtual learning resources, please visit <https://www.nwf.org/Eco-Schools-USA/Resources/Activities/Virtual-Classroom>.

To learn more about Rubicon, please visit: <http://www.trickortrash.com/>.





Lesson Plan

Trick or Trash Lesson Plan for Grades K-2



Lesson title

Recycling and the Circular Economy



Grade level

Grades K-2



Lesson overview

More and more students are practicing recycling and understand its benefits to the planet. But they might not realize recycling is also a vital component of the “circular economy,” a system designed to phase out pollution and waste and phase in products and solutions that have longer life spans and multiple uses. Schools, businesses, cities, and governments are now actively developing “circular systems” to conserve resources, save money, and reduce waste.

Not only is it important for students to understand the principles of “circularity,” but it is also motivating for them to know what new products can come from their recycling efforts. Rubicon’s “Trick or Trash” campaign uses a specially-designed recycling box for candy wrappers and is donated to schools ahead of Halloween 2020. The accompanying activities are designed for children in grades K-2 and lay the foundation for understanding a circular economy in later grades.

Learning outcomes



Enduring Understanding

Recycling keeps the community clean and protects wildlife.



Children will

- Identify resources and waste
- Describe what it looks like to recycle
- Explain why recycling is important; and
- Participate in the recycling process by putting candy wrappers in a Trick or Trash box at school or at a nearby community location

Learning outcomes



Core Concepts

- Letter writing
- Responding to questions
- Sorting
- Tallying and adding
- Colors and graphing



Guiding Questions

The guiding questions can be referenced throughout the Trick or Trash activities, but they will be specifically used for the worksheet *Trick or Trash, What do you see?*

- What is a resource?
- What is waste?
- What does it mean and what does it look like to recycle?
- Why do we recycle?

Vocabulary



Resource:

An item used by people to meet a need. For example, a jar of jelly is a resource. We use this resource in recipes or on toast, and when it is gone, we throw the jar away.



Waste:

Items that are unwanted that people throw away. Waste is also called trash, litter or garbage. For example, the jar we threw away is considered waste.



Recycle:

This is a process where resources, instead of throwing them away and becoming waste, are changed into something we can reuse. Recycling keeps our neighborhood clean and protects wildlife.

Materials



If children do not have access to a printer to print off the worksheets, these activities can be completed with paper, pencil, a straight edge (like a rule) and some colors.

- Trick or Trash, What Do You See?
- Trick or Trash, Writing Warrior
- Trick or Trash, Color Sort
- Trick or Trash, Graphing Fun!
- Trick or Trash, Keeping Your Community Clean



Activities

Trick or Trash, What do you see?



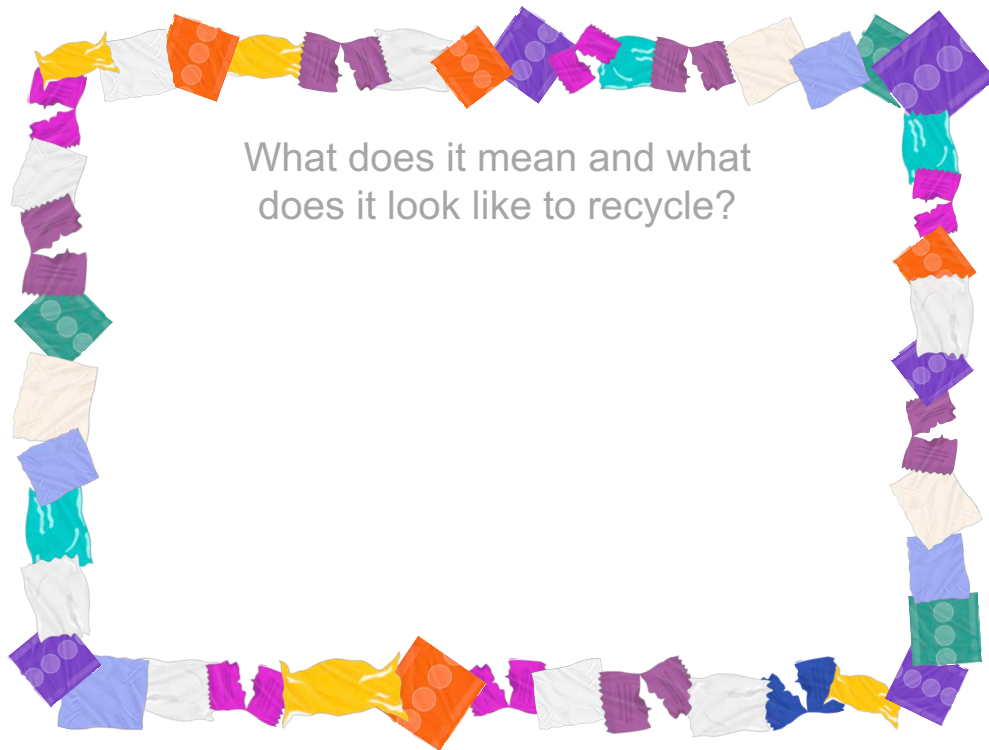
Think about what you know about waste and recycling. When your teacher asks the question, answer with a drawing of what you see in your mind.



Trick or Trash, What do you see?



Think about what you know about waste and recycling. When your teacher asks the question, answer with a drawing of what you see in your mind.



Trick or Trash, Writing Warrior



Practice writing the letters that make up the vocabulary for Trick or Trash, resource, waste and recycle.

resource

resource

Blank handwriting practice lines consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

waste

waste

Blank handwriting practice lines consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

recycle








recycle

Blank handwriting practice lines consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

Trick or Trash, Color Sort



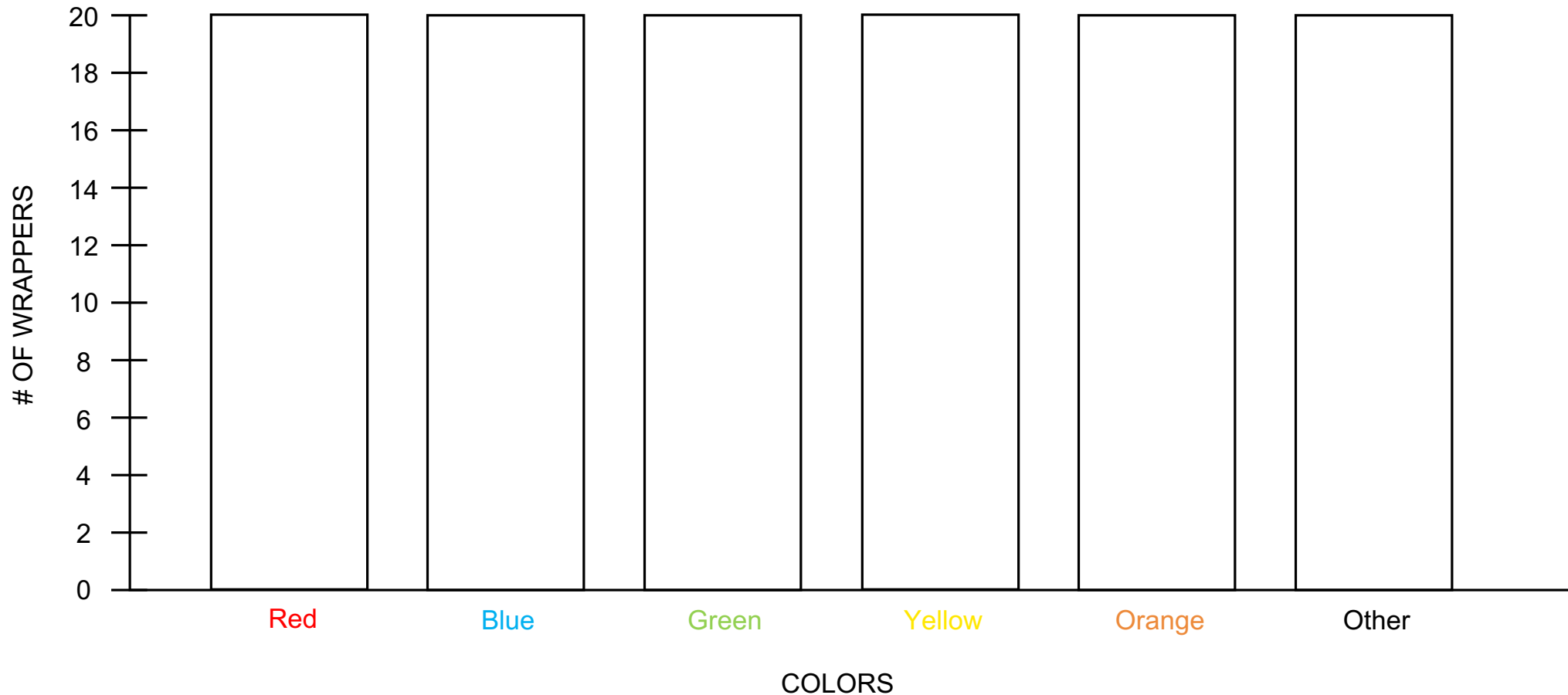
- 1) Place your candy wrappers in front of you.
- 2) Sort your wrappers by their main color.
- 3) Tally the number of wrappers using the center column titled, "Tallies."
- 4) Total your tallies for each color.
- 5) Find the sum of all color totals.

Main wrapper color	Tallies	Totals
Example: Brown 	IIII I=5 III=3	8
Red 		
Blue 		
Green 		
Yellow 		
Orange 		
Other 		

Trick or Trash, Graphing Fun!



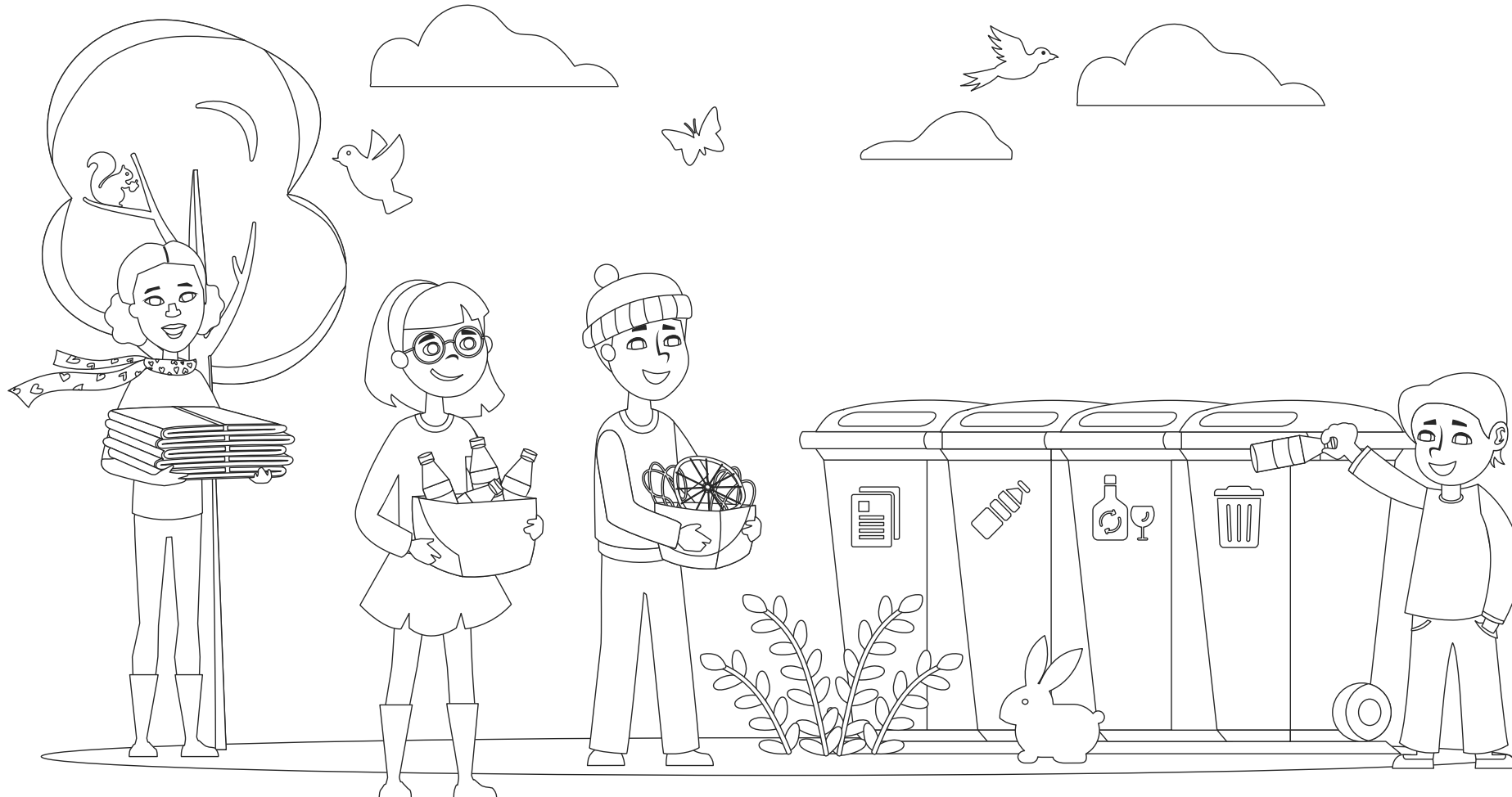
Use the bar graph to shade in how many of each candy wrapper color you sorted.



Trick or Trash, Keeping Your Community Clean



Color the picture below of children making their neighborhood cleaner and protecting wildlife by picking up waste and putting it in the recycling bin.

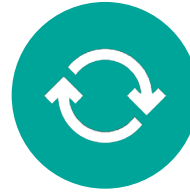


Resources for further learning



Recycling

- [United States Environmental Protection Agency](#)
- [National Geographic](#) – Pollution
- [RUBICONMethod](#)
- [Rubicon](#) – A guide to what makes something recyclable
- [Recycle Across America](#)



Circular Economy

- [Ellen MacArthur Foundation](#)
- [World Economic Forum](#)



Ocean Plastic

- [National Geographic](#) – Great Pacific Garbage Patch



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Thank you!