

# Elementary STEM Activity 10

**Subject:** Environmental Science

## Topic: Recycling and Sustainability Sort

**Grade Level:** 1-5

### Objective:

Students will sort common waste items into recyclable categories and explain why recycling matters.

### Learning Outcome:

- Identify common recyclable materials (paper, plastic, metal).
- Sort items correctly using category rules.
- Describe how recycling supports a cleaner environment.

### Materials Needed:

- Clean paper items
- Plastic bottle
- Metal can
- 3 labeled bins (Paper/Plastic/Metal)
- Gloves (optional)

### Activity Steps:

1. Discuss what recycling means and why it is important.
2. Introduce three bins: Paper, Plastic, Metal.
3. Show each item and let students decide the correct bin.
4. Place items into bins and check answers together.
5. Discuss what happens to materials after recycling.
6. Create a simple classroom recycling plan (who, when, where).

### Recording Table:

Item	Category (Paper/Plastic/Metal)	Why?
Newspaper		
Plastic bottle		
Metal can		
Cardboard		

### Discussion Questions:

- Why should we recycle?
- What happens if trash goes into the environment?
- Which items are easiest to recycle?
- How can our class reduce waste?

### Extension Activity:

Start a class recycling station for one week and track how much was collected in each bin.

### Illustration:

Recycling Sort

