

# 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

