

# Plastic Packaging

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

In school, you have participated in activities where facts were gathered about common products we use and ordinarily throw away. This activity will let you, as well as your family, look at plastic products and decide on some ways to prevent wasting plastics.

1. Gather ten plastic containers or pieces of packaging material. Before you examine them, predict how many of them will have symbols like the one shown to indicate that it can be recycled. Record your prediction.
2. Examine the plastic items. What did you notice about the ones that have recycling marking?

You may have found a number on the item from 1 to 7. Items marked with 1's are the easiest plastics to recycle; those marked with 7's are the hardest to recycle.

3. Record the quantity of each number marking in the chart below.

NUMBER (MARKING)	NUMBER OF PLASTIC CONTAINERS
1	3000
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

4. Talk and write about what you notice as you examine the plastic items marked with recycling numbers. If you find more than one item with the same number, are similarities and differences obvious? Can you tell by looking which items would have higher or lower numbers? Write some ideas.
5. Create a graph to show the number of containers of each type. If necessary, you may use grid paper to create your graph.

6. Talk about your graph with classmates. What are some things it shows?
  
7. On the basis of basis of your graph results, can you predict whether the next plastic item you pick up will have a recycling number?

If it has a number, what will the number be?

8. Plastics are common materials. Often we throw them away without thinking. If we conserve and recycle, much energy and money could be saved. Discuss your uses of plastics and the ways you dispose of the items. Could you cut down your use?

Could items and products that are easily recyclable be substituted for those items which are harder to recycle?