



## RECYCLING CARD GAMES

Grades 3-5

### Utah Core Objectives

#### Learning Objectives

By the end of this activity students will be acquainted with:

- the 4Rs—reduce, reuse, recycle, rethink
- importance of recycling
- Definition of compostable, composting, hazardous waste
- how to differentiate between compostables, recyclables, hazardous materials and thrift store items

#### Materials Needed

- Recycling 101 DVD (optional)
- DVD Player (optional)
- 3 decks of the recycling card game with four suits
- 4 baskets

#### Time

20-40 minutes

Omit the film to make the activity a 20-minute lesson.

For more information contact:

**Recycle Utah**  
1951 Woodbine Way  
PO Box 682998  
Park City, UT. 84068  
(435) 649-9698  
[www.recycleutah.org](http://www.recycleutah.org)

### Preparation

1. Set up the DVD player and test the DVD.
2. Divide TWO decks of cards in half with two complete suits in each half-deck, *shuffle*, and set aside, so you have four “decks.”
3. Shuffle one full deck, which you will use to teach the “suits” to the students. Rig the first four cards so they are recyclable, thrift store item, compostable and hazmat for your first demonstration.
4. Line up the 4 baskets at the front of the room and tie the suit labels to the baskets.

### Instructions

1. Tell students they will see a film made by Park City High School students; show the film.
2. After the film, link the next activity to some of the concepts in the film — the 4 Rs, thrift store items, environmental stewardship. Introduce the card game in which the suits are not hearts and diamonds but recyclables, thrift store items, compostables and hazardous materials.
3. Divide the students into four teams, have them line up and sit down in place.
4. Demonstrate how to sort suits, by pulling your first four cards, identifying the suits and placing each card in one of the four baskets.
5. Hold up the rest of the cards to each team leader, have the student identify the suit and place in the correct baskets. If the student cannot identify correctly, ask the next team leader. (Make sure leaders go to the end of the line after their turn.)
6. When the teams have gone through at least half the deck, the students are probably ready to play “Concentration.” Most kids know how to play this matching game already.

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## RECYCLING CARD GAME

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8. Each team gets a deck of cards. Show them how to lay the cards out and turn the cards over, looking for matches. Explain the big difference between a regular deck and this deck—players are matching *suits*, not pictures. Eg a compostable matches a compostable even though it's a picture of a banana and a flower.
9. If a player makes a match, the player retains the pair and can go again. If the player does not make a match, play passes to the left. The player with the most matches wins.
10. If a team finishes early, have them play again.

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