
OAKLAND RECYCLES
Recycle Right
Turn the page for some fun activities that will show you how to become the Recycling Superhero in your family!
COMPOST
CALIFORNIA WASTE SOLUTIONS
RECYCLE
TRASH

# Every Day is Earth Day!

**Learn to be a 'Recycling Superhero'—and help make our city a better place.**

CALIFORNIA WASTE SOLUTIONS

OAKLAND RECYCLES

## The Recycling Team

We all want our planet to be healthy and green. And you can play a big part—at your own home—just by putting things in the right waste bins.



## Futuro

Futuro can see how beautiful our world will be when we learn to recycle right—he is here to keep us focused. For example, think about the gray recycle cart your family rolls out to the curb or the gray recycle bin that sits near your apartment building. Do you know what needs to go in there? Do you know what shouldn't go in there?





## Green Girl

Green Girl is intent on keeping the Earth healthy and will swoop in to help wherever she is needed.

## Recycle Man

Recycle Man can dispose of a plastic bottle or an aluminum can in the blink of an eye.

This book will help teach you how to Recycle Right. And if you learn these simple rules, and help your family follow them too, you can reduce the amount of trash that goes to our city's landfill. This will help make our air, soil and water cleaner, and will reduce waste of natural resources, like trees.

## Terra

Terra, named for the Roman Earth goddess, will alert the Superhero team with her sharp nose and insistent bark, as well as pick up recyclables with her paws and in her mouth.

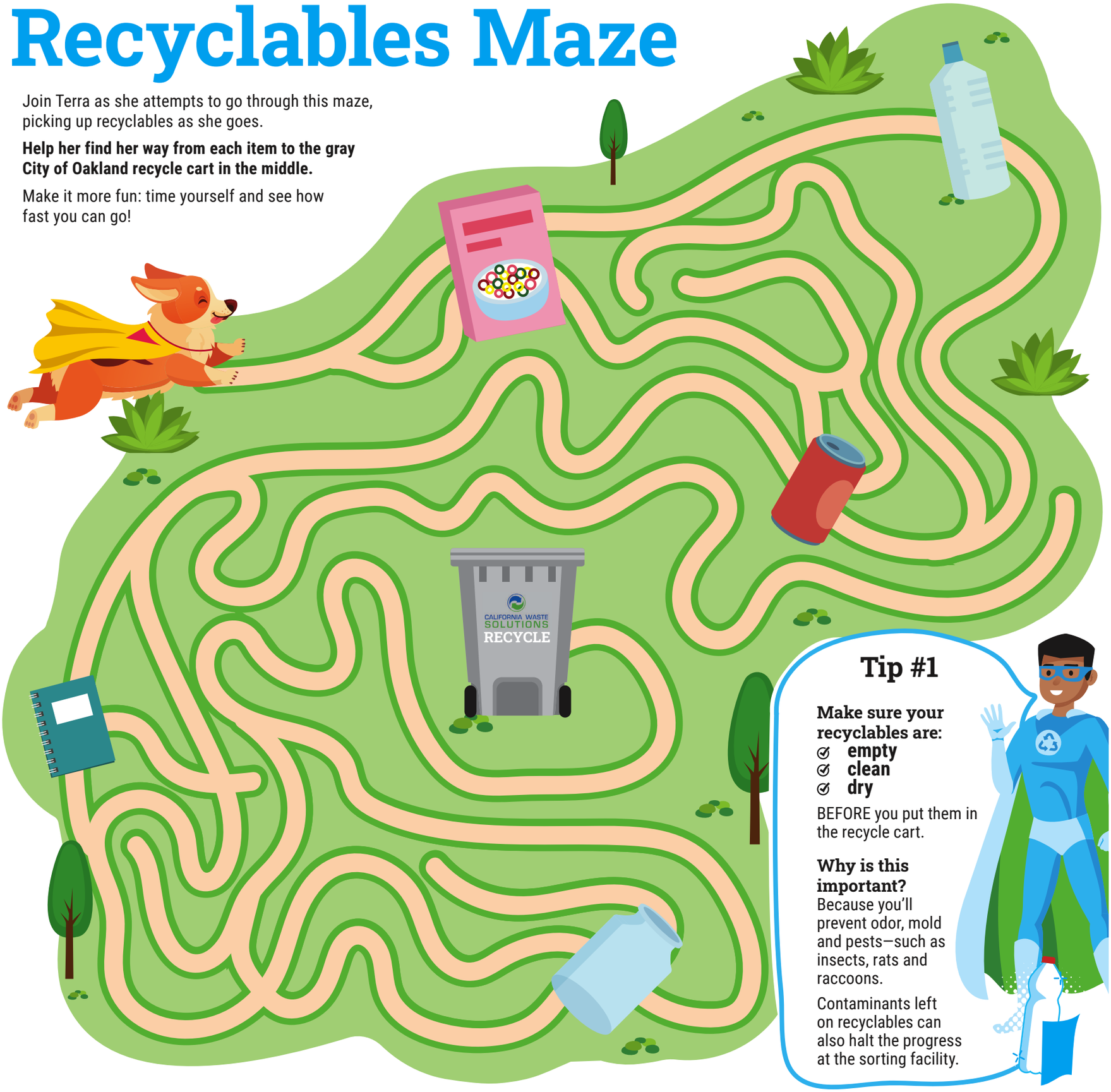


# Recyclables Maze

Join Terra as she attempts to go through this maze, picking up recyclables as she goes.

**Help her find her way from each item to the gray City of Oakland recycle cart in the middle.**

Make it more fun: time yourself and see how fast you can go!




## Tip #1

**Make sure your recyclables are:**

- ☑ **empty**
- ☑ **clean**
- ☑ **dry**

BEFORE you put them in the recycle cart.

**Why is this important?** Because you'll prevent odor, mold and pests—such as insects, rats and raccoons.

Contaminants left on recyclables can also halt the progress at the sorting facility.

# Recycle Word Search

**See how many of the 14 recycling terms and recyclable items you can find in this puzzle.**

F S F X E H Z Y K E L B V A A E B C R S Z G I
W H U O G N I L C Y C P U M Q R N Q C O W N M
G L R S R E P A P S W E N A X E U H Z D O Q F
A D X E T J C P S D Z V R G F P K R E A P L A
U R O W D A T I U G E C E A G A O E N B U X V
P B H N X U I Q X A S C V Z F P W T O O L A Z
Y F Z E A V C N G U U H G I L D S S T T L L K
V P V F G T H E A Z E E O N P E T A G T A U K
N I W Y Y L E Z W B R Y W E L X N W U L C M K
E X H I Q X A T R H I P M H S I K O J E T I C
V D L W R X Y S O Z Q L V I F M Z R K J G N A
Q V F F H F T H S R W I I X B S X E L I U U J
G O E H Q J Z A T J S U Q T N J J Z I D Q M Y
I U O P X R F A X T A D S M Y W S O M C O P G
Y Z X T I U M O L Y O R R L Z E C S N P H F X
G Z K F B L K O U D H I R E C Y C L E X K U N

## Words hidden in puzzle:

*(Google or look up any term you don't know.)*

**Terms**
Zero waste
Reduce
Reuse
Recycle
Sustainability
Donate
Upcycling

**Items**
Soda bottle
Milk jug
Magazine
Aluminum
Glass jar
Mixed paper
Newspaper

Find the answers on Page 15

**Sticker Alert!**

Place a sticker here when you recycle something.

# What's the Difference?

**These pictures look identical, but they're not. See if you can find the 10 differences.**





Find the answers on page 15

## Tip No. 2!

Organize your waste! Set up a sorting station inside your home and your collection day is even easier. **Here's how:**



**1 Sorting Station Location**
Find a spot in your kitchen, pantry, laundry room, garage or back porch.

**2 Dedicated bins**
Use different colored containers or label them: Trash, Recycle and Compost.

**3 Help your family**
Make sure everyone puts items in the right containers! Then together, you can place them in the correct cart or bin the night before the collection trucks come around. (Remember: burgundy/brown is trash, gray is recycle and green is compost.)

# Recycling Crossword

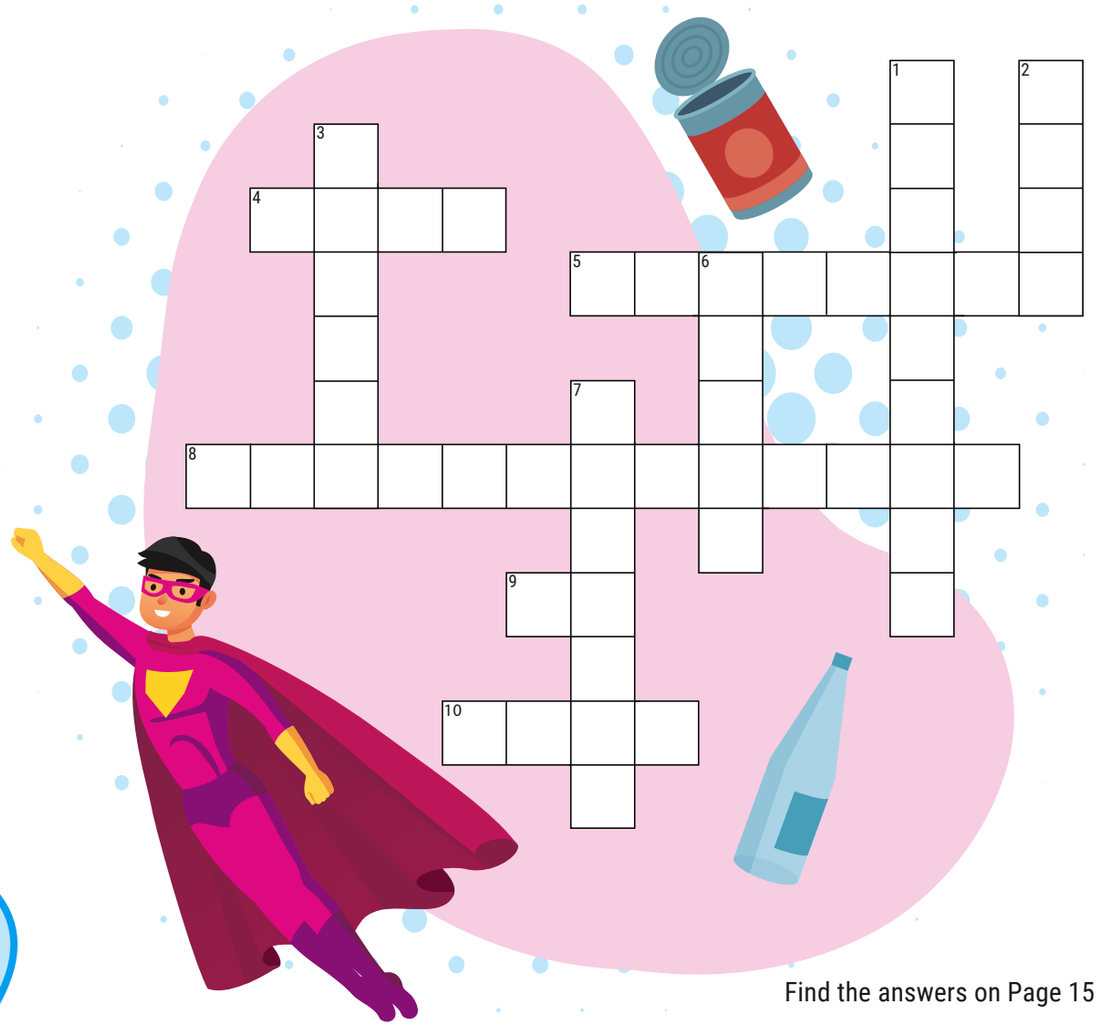
**Use the clues to complete this puzzle.**

**Across**

4. Where recycling starts
5. Green Girl's favorite holiday
8. Like methane
9. Not down, but ___cycle
10. Color of Oakland's recycle cart/bin

**Down**

1. Best if folded
2. Recycling isn't hard, it's _____
3. Glass or plastic
6. Reduce, _____, recycle
7. Recyclable made of steel and tin



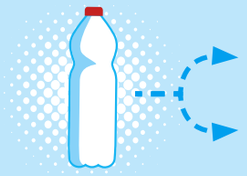
Find the answers on Page 15

**Keep it Loose!**



## Tip No. 3

**Recyclables should always be kept loose, not put in plastic bags or trash bags. Just open the cart or bin and drop them in. Why?**



It helps the sorters—they can see immediately what is there.



Plastic bags can damage sorting equipment and increase costs.



# Do the Math

*(and be sure to show your work in the space provided)*

**1**

The City of Oakland is working to reduce the amount of trash that goes to the landfill from **400,000** tons a year to **40,000** tons a year. Write a math equation that shows that reduction.

**2**

If the City of Oakland recycles 10,721.44 tons of glass, 11,500.17 tons of cardboard, and 8,089.94 tons of newspaper each year, how much is that altogether? How much does it add up to over two years? Five years? 10 years? *(To make it more fun: create a graph.)*

**3**

A typical passenger vehicle gives off 4.6 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year. If the City of Oakland is reducing greenhouse gases through recycling by 33,927.57 tons in 2020, it is equal to taking how many cars off the road?



Find the answers on Page 15

**Sticker Alert!**

Place a sticker here when you compact your recyclables.

# What Goes Where?

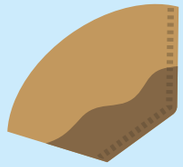
**Learn to be a sorter—match the items with the cart each one belongs in.**
*(To make it more fun: draw and write down some items of your own.)*



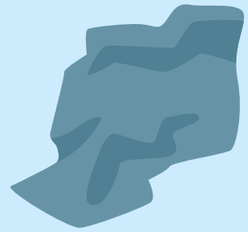
bottle



old clothes



coffee grounds



aluminum foil



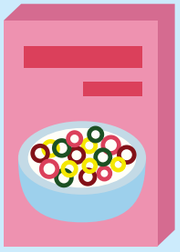
mask







juice box



cereal box



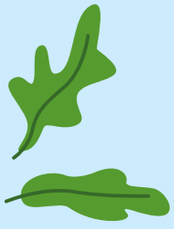
pizza box



plastic Ziploc bag



can



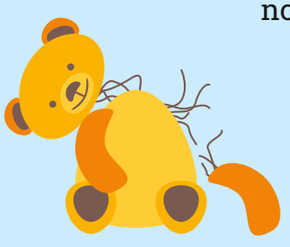
lettuce leaves



notebook



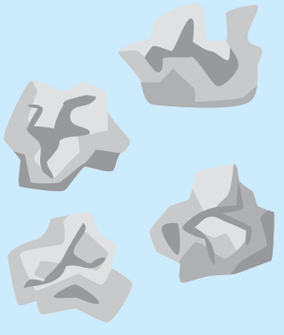
chip bag



broken toys



apple core



clean paper







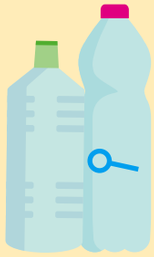
Find the answers on Page 15

# Upcycling: A Matching Game

**Upcycling means a recyclable item can become something else—and we'll give you the first one: a plastic bottle can be used to create a new backpack.** *See if you can figure out the (surprising) rest.*



## Before



Plastic water bottles



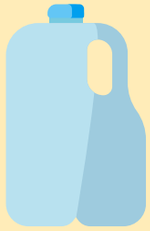
Newspaper



Soup cans

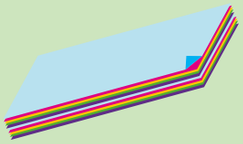


Detergent bottle



Plastic milk jug

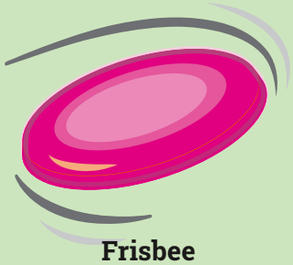
## After



Construction paper



Backpack



Frisbee



Playground equipment



Bike parts

Find the answers on page 15

# Do the Art

**Another way to reduce the waste in landfills is to NOT throw things away. Reuse them instead! In fact, they can become supplies for your art projects. Here is one idea to get you started:**

**Make a bouquet of flowers from newspaper and bubble wrap. You'll need:**


Newspaper

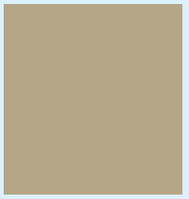

Bubble wrap

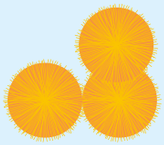

Paint


Scissors

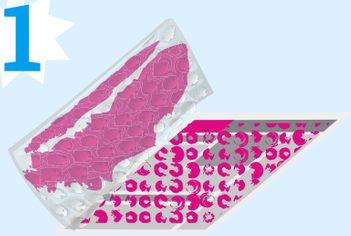


Glue


Cardboard or canvas

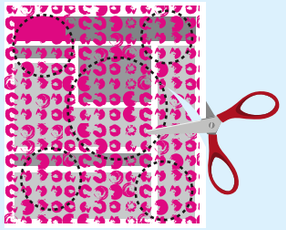

Optional: pom poms and glitter glue

1



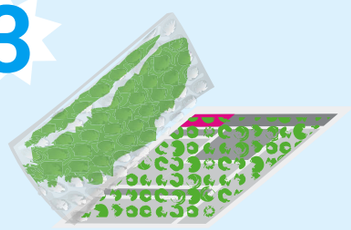
Paint the bubble wrap the color or colors of flowers and press it, paint side down, on the newspaper.

2



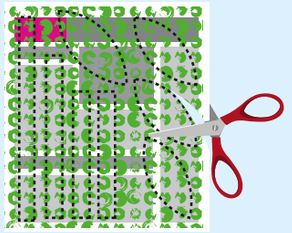
When the paint is dry, draw and cut out various size circles (use round templates like a glass, a cup, a spool of tape).

3



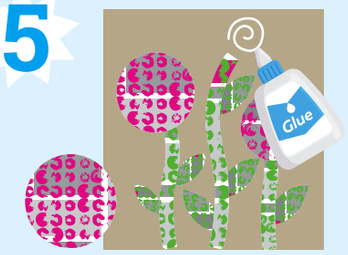
Paint some bubble wrap green and press it on the newspaper.

4



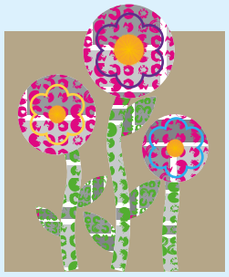
When it's dry, draw and cut out leaf and stem shapes (use real leaves, stems or small branches as templates).

5




Glue the flower-shaped circles, the leaves and stems to the cardboard or canvas. Be creative as you form your bouquet. You can even fold some of your shapes to give your final product a 3-D effect.

6

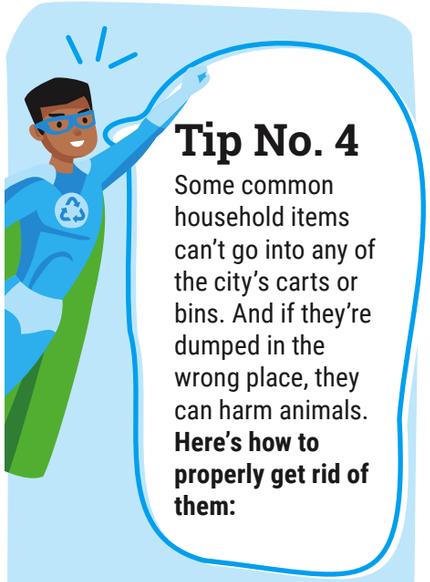


Decorate—if you have them—with pom poms and glitter.

But don't stop here. Use your imagination and create your own art projects. Items that work well and would otherwise go to the landfill include foam egg crates, broken ceramics, kitchenware, plastic wrap, packing peanuts, Styrofoam, photographs, plastic toys or sporting goods equipment. Have fun—and keep reusing!




Place a sticker here when you reuse something instead of throwing it away.



## Tip No. 4

Some common household items can't go into any of the city's carts or bins. And if they're dumped in the wrong place, they can harm animals. **Here's how to properly get rid of them:**




### Batteries

Put your used batteries in a sealed clear plastic bag. Set the bag on top of your recycling bin for curbside recycling, no labeling needed.



### Paint, fluorescent lamps, motor oil and other chemicals

**Drop them off for free** at the Alameda County Household Waste facility—visit www.resource.stopwaste.org for full details.

# Do the Science

**Use a recyclable and do an experiment at home that will teach you some scientific principles: Do water and oil mix? What happens when you add a simple stimulant, like table salt or citric acid and baking soda?**

*(The result: Your brother, sister and best friend will want one too.)*

**Make a lava lamp from a glass jar (or plastic water bottle). You'll need:**



Plastic water bottle or glass jar



Water



Food coloring

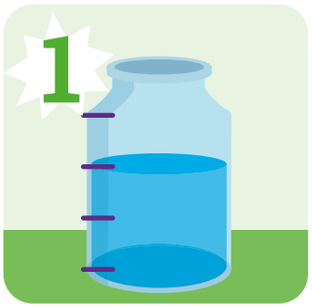


Vegetable oil



Salt or Alka-Seltzer tablets (citric acid and baking soda)

**Directions:**




Fill your jar (or bottle) about 2/3 full with water.




Add in a few drops of food coloring (any color).




Fill most of the rest of the jar (or bottle) with vegetable oil, but leave a ½ inch at the top (be careful not to overfill).




Now the fun begins: Drop in a spoonful or two of salt or a tablet of Alka-Seltzer broken into pieces. The bubbling action will be intense at first, but will calm down. The lava will slowly start moving around.

It will last awhile. To make it work again, just add more salt or Alka-Seltzer.

# Test Your Recycling Knowledge



**Pass this quiz and you are on your way to becoming an official Recycling Superhero.**

*Your job: to help your family learn how to Recycle Right. Then together, we can all make Oakland—and our world—a better place. (Test your family with this quiz too!)*

## True or False

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Recycling is too difficult for most families to do at home. | true | false |
| 2 | Recyclables should be kept loose, not put in plastic bags. | true | false |
| 3 | It's OK to put used batteries straight into the trash bin. | true | false |
| 4 | Cardboard, newspaper and junk mail can all be put in the recycling cart. | true | false |
| 5 | You can reduce the amount of waste that goes to the landfill by reusing items. | true | false |
| 6 | Pizza boxes, paper plates and napkins that contain food waste belong in the compost cart/bin. | true | false |

## Short answer

1. Where can you set up bins inside your house to collect and sort waste? Why is that a good idea?

2. Why is it important for recyclables to be clean and dry?

3. Waste in landfills gives off gases that can harm our environment. What are they called?

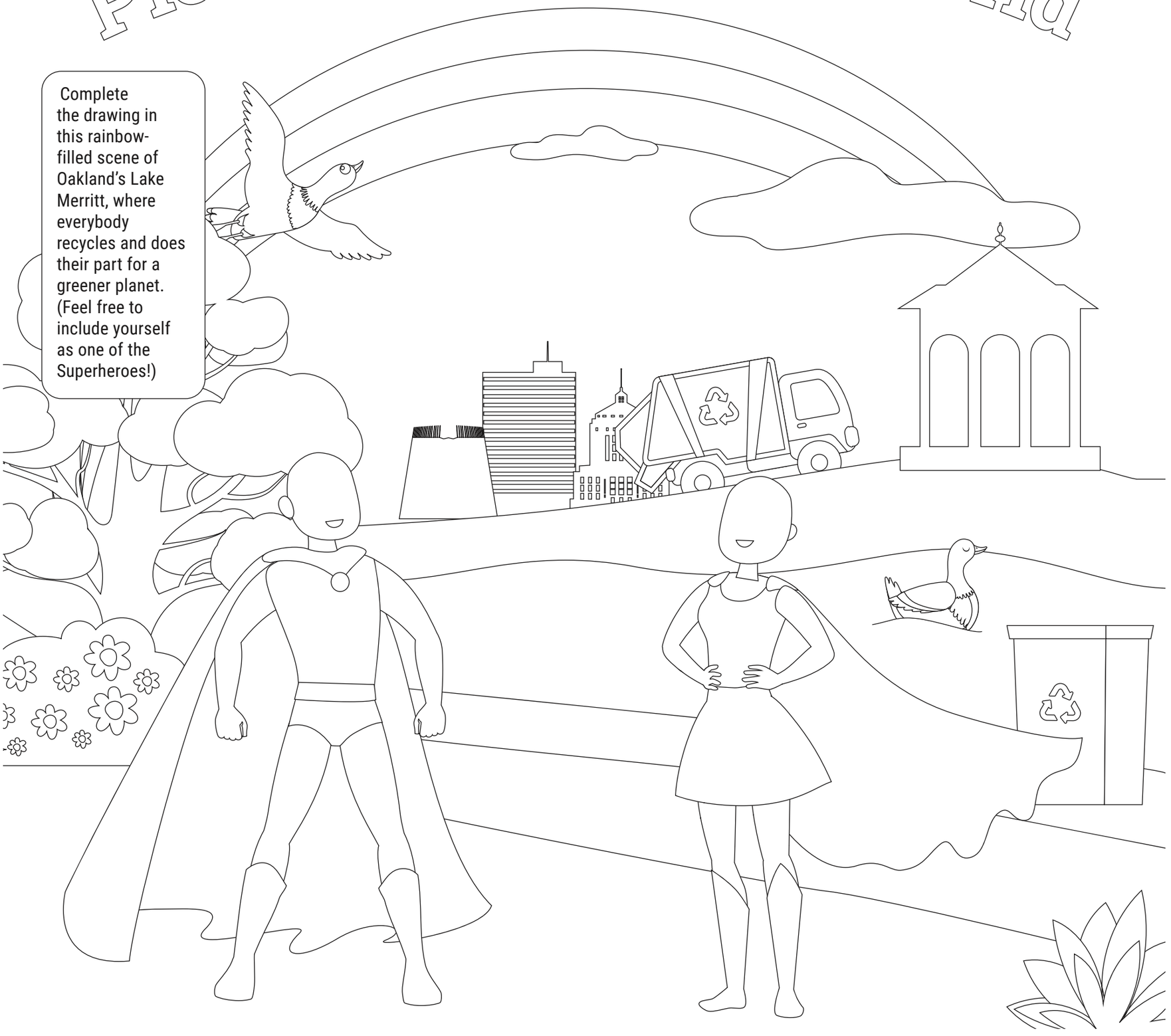
4. If a household item like motor oil is poured down a drain, how do you think it might harm fish, animals or birds?

**EXTRA CREDIT: What can you do to help your family, your neighborhood and your city recycle? What else can you do to protect our environment?**

Find the answers on page 15

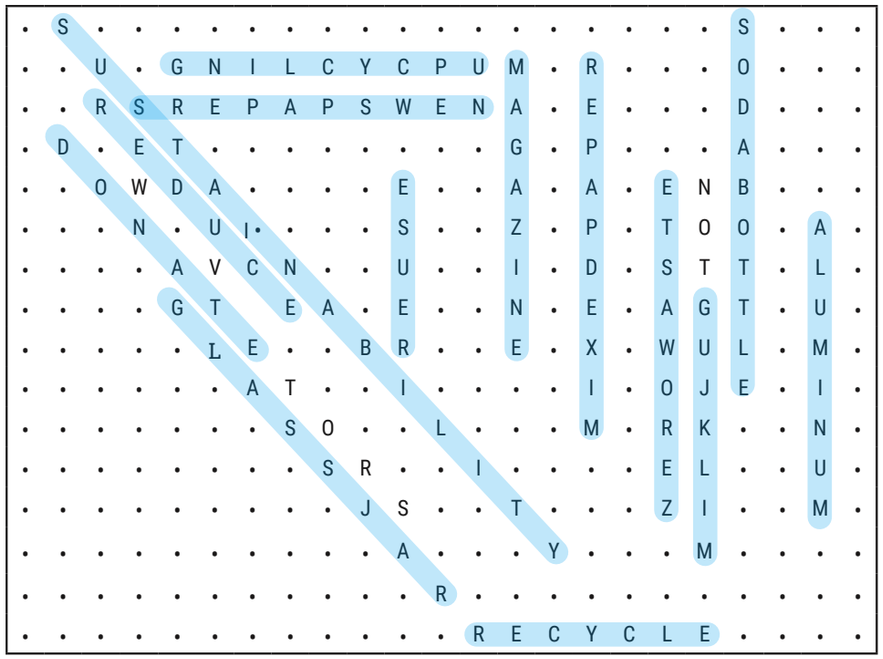
# Picture a Beautiful World

Complete the drawing in this rainbow-filled scene of Oakland's Lake Merritt, where everybody recycles and does their part for a greener planet. (Feel free to include yourself as one of the Superheroes!)



# Answer Key

**Page 4 Word Search Answers:**




**Page 5 What's the Difference Answers:**



**Page 6 Crossword Answers:**

Across
4. Home
5. Earth Day
8. Greenhouse gas
9. Up
10. Gray

Down
1. Cardboard
2. Easy
3. Bottle
6. Reuse
7. Soup can

**Page 7 Do the Math Answers:**

**1.** 400,000 x .10 = 40,000 OR 400,000 – 40,000 = 360,000

**2.** 30,311.55 total; 60,623.10 over two years; 151,557.75 over five years; 303,115.50 over 10 years.

**3.** 7,375 cars

**Page 8/9 Sorting**

Compost: apple core, lettuce leaves, coffee grounds, pizza box
Recycle: bottle, cereal box, notebook, can, clean paper, aluminum foil, juice boxes
Landfill: plastic bags, broken toy, old clothes, mask

**Page 13 Quiz Answers:**

True or False

1. False
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. True
6. True

Short answer

1. Kitchen, laundry room, garage, back porch. Organizing your waste makes it easier to put it in the correct cart or bin on collection day.
2. It prevents odor, mold and pests—such as insects, rats and raccoons. Contaminants left on recyclables can also halt the progress at the sorting facility.
3. Greenhouse gases, which can harm air quality.
4. Animals could be hurt or poisoned by toxic chemicals in motor oil if it enters our water system where they live or drink.

**EXTRA CREDIT: All your answers are correct!**

**Page 10 Matching**

Plastic water bottles & Backpack

Newspaper & Construction paper

Soup cans & Bike parts

Detergent bottle & Frisbee

Plastic milk jug & Playground equipment

**Sticker Alert!**

Place a sticker here when someone in your family recycles something correctly.

# Recycle Right!




Now that you've learned the simple rules of recycling—and how easy it is to do it at home—you are ready to join our team.

**TOGETHER,** we can make Oakland—and our planet—cleaner, healthy and green.

OAKLAND RECYCLES

CALIFORNIA WASTE SOLUTIONS

To learn about family events and other fun activities, check out **oaklandrecycles.com**.

If you have a question about recycling, contact the Recycling Hotline at **recycling@oaklandca.gov** or call **510-238-SAVE (7283)**.

This activity book is an example of recycling in action! It was printed on recycled paper using non-toxic ink.

Produced for City of Oakland
by N&R Publications, www.nrpubs.com