

# Linear vs. Circular Systems Worksheet

Use this worksheet to accompany the "Recology for Kids" presentation, which explains the difference between linear and circular systems and how materials flow through each system.

## **Check Your Understanding – Natural Resources**

a. What is a natural resource? Do we have unlimited natural resources on our planet?

	Items Used Every Day	Natural Resource Used
1.		
2.		
3.		

b. List three items you use every day. What natural resources are they made from?

# **Review the Life Story – The Landfill Bin**

Put the following steps in order to describe what happens when we put something that doesn't belong into the landfill bin. Start by writing the number "1" next to the step you think is first.

- A large truck is loaded with all the garbage from SF and drives to the landfill.
- Natural resources are removed from earth (example: trees chopped, oil drilled, or rocks mined).
- Our item is used and then mistakenly placed in the landfill bin.
- \_\_\_\_\_ We purchase our item from a store.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The landfill bin is rolled to the curb and picked up by a Recology collection truck.
- We can't reuse our item anymore all the landfill bin material is wasted in the landfill forever.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recology trucks dump what they collected into the Transfer Station pit, where nothing is sorted.
- Natural resources are used to create our item and it can be found on store shelves.



#### Describe a Landfill

Use words or a drawing to describe what you think it would be like to visit a landfill. How might it make you feel? What would you see, smell, and hear there?

#### **Recycle and Reuse**

Draw what happens when we use **the blue recycling bin** instead of the landfill. What shape does your drawing make? Then, describe one other way **besides recycling** that would prevent paper from ending up in the landfill.

## **Check Your Understanding – Recycling**

a. How does recycling save natural resources?

b. Why does the landfill system look like a line, and the recycling system a circle?



## Draw a Life Story – Composting Our Food Scraps

Draw what happens when you place your food scraps in the green compost bin. Be sure to think about how this process is different than if you placed them in the landfill or recycling bin.

# What is Special About Compost? Create an Announcement!

Use this space to write a slogan, draw a poster, create a meme, or design an announcement to creatively tell your peers what is special, different, and/or exciting about compost.

#### Reduce, Reuse, Refuse

Write an example of how you can do each of the following in your own life:

- <u>Reduce how much stuff you use and throw away:</u>
- Reuse something you have in a new way, instead of throwing it out:
- <u>Refuse something you are offered but you don't need:</u>