



New name, website, and logo — same great service!

The Hendricks County Solid Waste Management District is now the Hendricks County Recycling District. We changed our name, website, and logo to help people better understand what we do — recycle! Despite the changes, we are still here to provide residents of Hendricks County with the same great services. Visit our new website, www.RecycleHendricksCounty.org, and use our searchable Recycle Guide to see what, where, and how to recycle all sorts of household items. The website also has up-to-date information on everything from Tox-Away collection dates to free educational programs for K-12 schools and other groups. As always, the Hendricks County Recycling District is dedicated to promoting recycling, waste reduction, and responsible waste disposal within Hendricks County.



Mark your calendars!

The first Tox-Away Day of 2021 will be held on Saturday, April 17, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Brownsburg East Middle School, 1250 Airport Road. Please visit www.recyclehendrickscounty.org/tox-away-days for accepted items, applicable fees, and additional Tox-Away dates.



Spring greening

As the grass greens up and the trees sprout new leaves, you may feel new energy as you move out of winter and into spring. This is a great time to add more green to your classroom!

We are super excited to share with you some “spring green” videos about reducing waste, reusing, recycling, and composting! Just visit our YouTube channel, “HendricksCountyRecyclingDistrict,” and look under the Environmental Education playlist for great videos. Although things have changed due to COVID restrictions, we are still available to do some outdoor and virtual programs. To find out more about these programs, ask your teacher or club leader to contact Amy Sieferman at asieferman@recyclehc.org or have him or her visit www.recyclehendrickscounty.org/education/school-youth-education/. Remind your teacher that we get busy as Earth Day gets closer in late April. In the meantime, if you’re looking for some fun games, videos, and downloadable workbooks online, visit www.epa.gov/students/games-quizzes-and-more. We hope to see you soon. Happy spring!



Restore our Earth

On Thursday, April 22, we celebrate the 51st Earth Day with the theme, "Restore Our Earth." Each year, Earth Day is a time to celebrate the ways we have made our planet cleaner and to learn about what we can do better. Americans have been celebrating our special planet and Earth Day since 1970, and the 2021 theme urges us to work together to help repair and restore our environment.

While Earth Day is a great time to do something extra for our planet, we need to remember that we should take care of our amazing planet every day. It's like your brother or sister — you celebrate their birthday, but it's good to be nice to them all year! The Earth is our home, and it's the only one we've got, so we should treat it well. Here are some things you can do year-round to take care of our home planet:

- **Save energy:** Turn off computer monitors or laptops when you aren't using them. Unplug power adapters for cell phones, tablets, and laptops when you aren't charging or using the devices. Turn off lights when you leave the room. Encourage your parents to buy energy-efficient light bulbs, like compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) or LEDs, to replace burned-out incandescent bulbs. Oh, and don't stand with the refrigerator door open! Take a peek and think about the food with the door shut.
- **Conserve water:** Turn off the water while you brush your teeth. Run the washing machine and dishwasher only with full loads. In the shower, save water by getting clean and getting out.
- **Reduce your waste:** There are lots of small ways to do this. Use both the front and back of your papers. If you take lunch to school, use washable and reusable containers and a reusable lunch bag or box. Before you buy something new, think about whether you really need it or look for something used. (A used hoodie will keep you just as warm!)
- **Recycle:** Recycling is for more than just bottles, jugs, cans, jars, papers, and cardboard. Make sure you're also recycling batteries, computers,

appliances, inkjet cartridges, and more. Not sure how? Just ask us or visit our NEW website at www.RecycleHendricksCounty.org!

- **Spread the word:** Just because you know about all this stuff doesn't mean that your brothers, sisters, cousins, parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, or neighbors do! Be the teacher and explain to them why it's important to help our planet. Share your ideas about how they can help.

When we keep our planet clean, we keep everyone's home clean. Learn more at www.earthday.org or www.epa.gov/students.

Can you believe it?

Because of the pandemic, EACH MONTH about 129 BILLION (with a B!) disposable face masks and 65 billion plastic gloves are being used and thrown away, according to scientists at the ocean protection organization Ocean Conservancy. Because both masks and gloves are lightweight and blow around, and because some people are careless about how they are thrown away, scientists estimate that about 1.5 billion disposable face masks ended up in the ocean in 2020.

NEVER throw masks, wipes, or latex gloves on the ground or in the recycling bin. They belong in the trash can. For extra protection to wildlife that might get tangled, cut the ear loops of face masks before throwing them away. For a healthier planet, use reusable face masks, when possible.





Litter in the can, not on the ground

Walking down the street or school hallways, you may notice small pieces of litter lying around. During the pandemic, we have seen a lot of masks and takeout food trash on the ground, too. While one piece of litter may not seem like a big deal, it can lead to big problems. According to Keep America Beautiful, people are more likely to drop litter where they see other litter on the ground. Once an area becomes littered, more and more litter is likely to pile up until it becomes a nasty mess. Litter doesn't just make an area look messy; it can actually be harmful to people and animals. Litter can clog storm drains and pollute streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans. Animals can mistake litter for food and eat something harmful to them. So that one candy wrapper that you drop on the playground may cause serious problems!

Here are some tips to prevent and reduce litter:

- Don't litter!
- Make sure the lids are closed on curbside trash and recycling containers.
- Hold onto masks in the car so they don't blow away when the windows are open.
- Pick up litter. Ask a parent or teacher how to do this safely.
- Organize a litter cleanup at school, at a park, or in your neighborhood. Consider using tongs, gloves, or garbage grabbers to pick up trash safely. Do not touch garbage with your bare hands. If you or your group are interested in doing some litter cleanups, we can help you find the materials you need to keep you safe. Contact Amy Sieferman at asieferman@recyclehc.org.

Grasscycle those clippings

Do you make new plans during the spring? Maybe you start walking the dog, going to the park, kicking around the soccer ball, or planting flowers. Spring also means it's time to start mowing the lawn!

It's the time of year when the mower is pulled from its place in the garage and put back to work on the growing grass. That means it's also a good time of year to talk to your family about grasscycling your lawn clippings.

Grasscycling is actually less work. Instead of stopping to empty the bag of the mower, leave the clippings on your lawn and let nature do the rest. The clippings are small and will break down quickly. This gives your lawn food that it needs (called nitrogen), as well as moisture. So not only is grasscycling easier for your family, but it is also better for your lawn. That's what your parents would call a win-win situation!

Nitrogen – noun – A colorless, odorless gas that makes up almost 4/5 of the air on Earth and is required by all living things

It's easy to grasscycle. All you need is the mower you have at home. Simply have an adult remove the bagging attachment and, if needed, insert a safety device over the grass chute. If there isn't a bag attached to your mower, you're already set to grasscycle. Mow as usual, letting the grass fall back onto your lawn.

Talk to your family now about grasscycling! If your parents or grandparents want more information, have them contact us at asieferman@recyclehc.org. We would be glad to answer any questions!



Care for yourself and the planet with WALL-E!

Earth Day during a pandemic is the perfect time to watch the Pixar movie, WALL-E, available at many local libraries and on streaming services. The animated film focuses on the life of a very lonely robot who has spent the last 700 years all by himself tidying up a very polluted Earth while all the humans inhabit a spaceship waiting for the planet to be clean enough to live on again.

This family-friendly movie is a great reminder of how important it is for us to stop buying so much stuff and to start reusing and recycling everything we can. Who would want to live in such a trash-filled world? (Not even fictional cartoon characters!)

WALL-E also teaches about how to deal with loneliness. The humans in the film are unhappy, sitting around looking at screens all day, waiting for Earth to become safe again. Sound familiar? Like the characters in the movie, many kids and adults have felt alone or sad during the pandemic. To feel better, WALL-E dances to music, repurposes trash to make gifts for his robot girlfriend EVE, and plays with his pet. The humans in the movie only start to feel better when they turn off the screens and begin to exercise and talk with each other.

This unique Earth Day, please take the time to think about what you can do to make the Earth healthier. This may include not littering and working to recycle more. For recycling information, visit our website at www.RecycleHendricksCounty.org. We also have earth-friendly tips in this newsletter! While you are caring for the Earth, remember to take care of yourself, too. Turn off the screens for an hour or two, exercise, go out in nature, talk with a friend or parent, play with a pet, listen to music, dance, make gifts out of repurposed trash, or do other activities that help you reduce stress. We need happy, healthy people to help take care of our Earth!

Questions about the film WALL-E

1. It is clear that WALL-E is lonely at the beginning of the movie. What does WALL-E do to make himself feel better? What makes you feel better when you are lonely or sad?
2. Can you guess why the Earth is so trashed in this movie? What could we do to make sure that our Earth never becomes as polluted as the one in the movie?
3. What is your favorite part of the movie? Why?



Taking out the trash

Have you ever been asked by your parents to take out the trash but you didn't want to? In Shel Silverstein's poem, "Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout Would Not Take the Garbage Out," Sarah Cynthia Sylvia refuses to take out her family's trash. The problem gets so bad that the garbage ends up reaching "across the state, / From New York to the Golden Gate"! Eventually, Sarah's "garbage reached so high / That it finally touched the sky."

While the poem is fun to read, you probably know that one family's trash couldn't actually cover the entire country or reach the sky. But think about the garbage truck that goes through your neighborhood every week. Together, we and our neighbors do create a lot of trash.

Besides taking trash to the curb, what else could Sarah have done? She had "coffee grounds, potato peelings, brown bananas, rotten peas." Maybe her family could have used a vermicompost bin or a backyard compost pile.

Before you take the garbage out, look in your family's trash. Do you see bottles, cans, jars, cardboard, or paper that could have been recycled? What about carrot peels, old bread, or eggshells that might have fed worms in a vermicompost bin? Are there grass clippings or leaves that might have gone into a backyard compost bin? Don't be like Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout! Help your family put trash and recycling in the right place.

To learn more about recycling, visit www.RecycleHendricksCounty.org. And, please, take the garbage out!



Who's the expert now?

You probably know a lot about recycling. Are you the recycling expert in your family? Would you like to be? Read on to learn more. First, you should know why recycling is important. Here are our top five reasons to recycle:

1. Recycling saves energy.
2. Recycling conserves natural resources.
3. Recycling reduces air and water pollution.
4. Recycling helps create manufacturing jobs.
5. Recycling is EASY!

Second, know what materials we accept locally. Curbside recycling is available in Avon, Brownsburg, Clayton, Danville, North Salem, Pittsboro, and Plainfield through local haulers.

Visit your hauler's website for information on what is accepted curbside. The District provides four Recycling Drop-Off Centers within the county. They are located in Coatesville (50409 Mill Street), Lizton (177 W. Main Street), North Salem (7 W. Pearl Street), and Stilesville (5745 US 40). Recycle these items at the Recycling Drop-Off Centers:

- Metal food and drink cans – Labels and lids can stay on.
- Plastic bottles, jugs, and food tubs/cups – Labels and lids can stay on.
- Glass food and drink bottles and jars – Labels and lids can stay on.
- Cartons (milk, soup, wine, broth, juice boxes)
- Paper and cardboard, including boxes, empty toilet paper and paper towel tubes, junk mail, newspapers, magazines, catalogs, printer paper, and school papers – Flatten all boxes. Shredded paper must be inside a paper bag.

Third, prepare your recyclables correctly. Food and drink containers should be emptied and rinsed. Make sure that paper products are clean and dry (no greasy pizza boxes!). Flatten boxes before recycling to save space in bins and carts. Lids should be placed back onto recycled items or thrown into the trash (no loose lids).

Fourth, you need to know what does NOT belong with your recycling. Contaminating your recycling can cause lots of problems. Sometimes, unacceptable materials can even ruin an entire batch of recyclables at the processing center. Please don't put these items into curbside or drop-off recycling bins: plastic bags and film, plastic furniture and toys, scrap metal, loose lids, furniture, tires, hazardous chemicals, light bulbs, batteries, and Styrofoam. For more information about where to recycle things like plastic bags/film, Styrofoam, and other recyclables not accepted curbside or at our Drop-Off Centers, check our online Recycle Guide at www.recyclehendrickscounty.org/online-directory. Visit our website to find up-to-date information about disposing hazardous chemicals during our Tox-Away Days, too! Usable toys and furniture can be donated to Goodwill, a local shelter, or another charity, but broken toys and furniture should be sent to the landfill.

Now who is the recycling expert? You? Yes, you!



Funded by the Hendricks County Recycling District



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SCRAMBLED MESS

Jack is trying to find out more about recycling. However, he needs your help because some of the words are scrambled. Unscramble the words in bold and use them to complete the sentences.

1. All items placed into the recycling bins should be _____, _____, and _____.

ytpme nalec yrd

2. In most places, _____ bottles, _____, cardboard, and _____ cans are accepted for recycling.

citslap reppa letam

3. Items should be placed loose into the recycling carts, not inside _____.

citslpa bgas

4. Never place plastic bags, garden _____, cords, and anything that could _____ into the recycling bins. These items can break the sorting equipment in the recycling facilities and _____ the workers.

ohess anletg mhar

5. Recycling saves _____, conserves natural _____, creates _____, and reduces the need for _____ space!

gyenre cersseoru bojs fildanll

ALL IN THE ANALOGY

- Gas is to cars as _____ is to appliances.
- Chlorine is to swimming pools as detergent is to _____.
- Earth Day is to April 22 as _____ is to July 4.
- Aluminum is to a can as _____ is to a milk jug.
- Repair is to fix as _____ is to swap.

Homo means "same" and **nym** means "name" (spelling or sound), so **homonyms** have the same sound but different meanings.

INSPECT TO DETECT

Reading can be a mystery. Some words are spelled exactly the same but can mean different things. You need to think like a detective looking for clues and read the entire sentence to figure out the correct meanings for these words. Some homonyms, like the ones shown below, include words that are spelled and pronounced the same but have different meanings. Fill in the blanks with the correct homonym pair for each sentence. The first sentence has been done for you as an example.

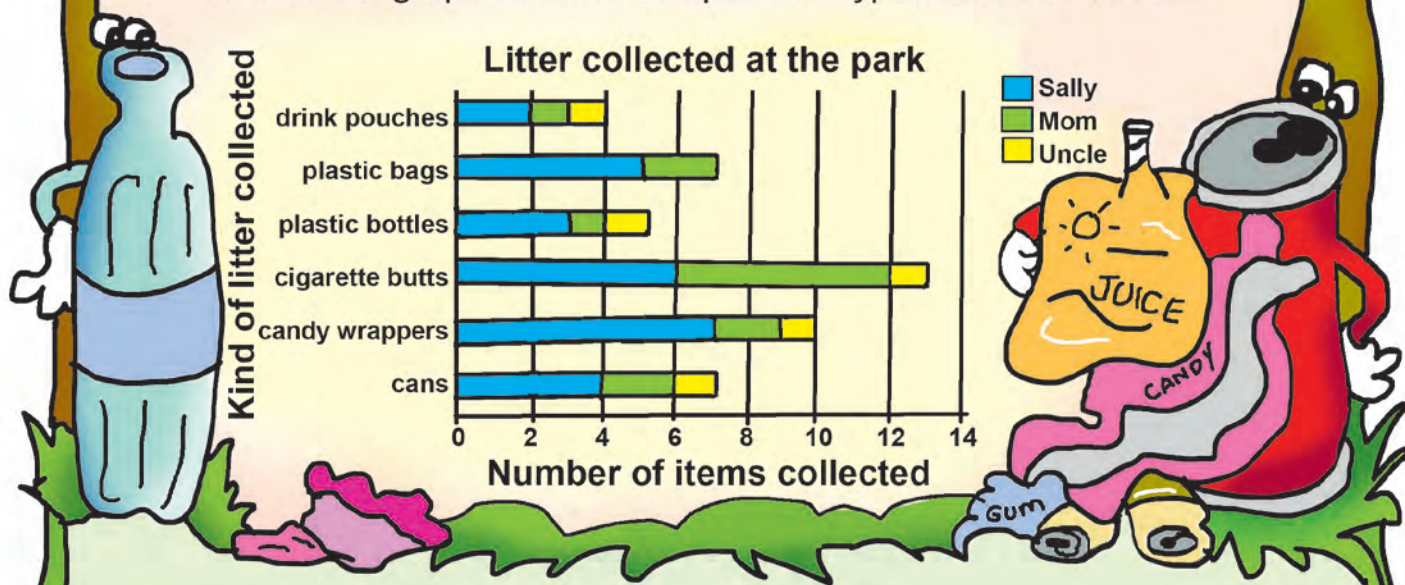
left crane play pitcher back fall ~~tire~~ park

1. I tire of seeing the discarded tire that litters the field where I play.
2. A white _____ flew above the _____ used for moving heavy items at the landfill.
3. In the _____ after the leaves _____ to the ground, they can be placed in a compost pile.
4. My sister will dance in the Earth Day _____ while I _____ the guitar.
5. My parents _____ their e-waste on the _____ side of the collection area.
6. Mr. Goldstein is happy to be _____ at school after he was out with a _____ injury.
7. The baseball _____ asked for a _____ of water so he wouldn't have to use bottled water.
8. Dad will _____ the car near the _____ where we will pick up litter.

Bonus: Write a sentence using the homonyms rose (a type of flower) and rose (the past tense of rise). _____

Grasping Graphs

Graphs are a really easy way to look at data (information). A stacked bar graph uses bars of different lengths stacked next to each other to represent amounts to be compared. To celebrate Earth Day, Sally's family picked up litter at their favorite park. Sally created the stacked bar graph below to compare the types of litter collected.



Use the information from the bar graph above to answer the following questions:

1. What color is used to show how many items Sally picked up? _____
2. How many drink pouches were collected in total? _____
3. Who collected the most litter? How did you figure that out? _____

4. How many plastic bags did Sally's uncle pick up? _____
5. Sally and her mother collected the same amount of what kind of litter? _____
6. Which was the most littered item? _____
7. Which were littered more, drink pouches or cans? _____

Bonus: Why do you think small items like cigarette butts and candy wrappers were littered so much? _____

JUST IN TIME

A timeline is a type of graph that is used to show the passage of time along a straight line. Timelines are especially useful in showing historical events in relation to each other. Below is a timeline showing a small part of the history of recycling in the United States. Use the timeline to answer the questions.

1. What year did Keep America Beautiful begin their anti-littering television ad campaign? _____
2. How many years did it take to get from one to over 5,000 curbside recycling programs? _____
3. During which year did Americans become more aware of pollution and begin to litter less? _____
4. What year did the recycling rate reach 25% nationally? _____
5. How many years after the first Earth Day (in 1970) did it take for Keep America Beautiful to start their TV ads urging people not to litter? _____

History of waste and recycling in the United States, 1971-1996

Keep America Beautiful begins airing a TV ad campaign featuring a Native American crying as he views a land littered with waste. Americans become more aware of pollution and begin to litter less.

The total number of curbside recycling programs in the U.S. grows to 5,000.

1971

1974

1992

1996

The first curbside recycling is offered in the U.S. in University City, Missouri.

The recycling rate in the U.S. reaches 25%. The EPA sets a new goal of 35%.

Reuse Ideas

Math

- Do $1/13$ and $1/5$ have a common denominator?
- Solve this problem:
 $1/4 + 1/5 + 1/13 + 1/9 + 1/7 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
- If 3 people collected a total of 46 items of litter, what is the average number collected by each person?
- Write 1996 in expanded form.

English/Language Arts

- Based on your knowledge of “recycling,” what might the prefix “re” mean?
- Choose the adverb and use it in a sentence:
play player playfully played
- Write these words in ABC (alphabetical) order:
paper plastic play pitcher
park pollution programs
- In “Inspect to Detect,” find a word that starts with *P* and is an antonym for *work*.

Science

- Select the term that doesn't belong:
aluminum steel plastic copper
- Would a magnet stick to a steel soup can or an aluminum beverage can?
- List five common types of litter you might see on a roadside. What is each type of litter made from?
- Complete this analogy:
mined : minerals :: : crops

Social Studies

- Who was President of the United States in 1971?
- The founder of Arbor Day, J. Sterling Morton, was from Nebraska. Find that state on a map.
- Keep America Beautiful's 1971 advertising campaign was considered a “public service announcement.” What is a “public service announcement”?
- Using local and state maps, find a local park and a state park. What state park is closest to where you live?

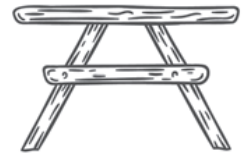
Journal Writing Prompts

- By adding prefixes and suffixes to the word “*cycle*” make as many new words as you can.
- List new goods that can be made from recycled paper, aluminum, and plastic. What are some of the benefits of making new goods from recyclables instead of raw materials?
- Create a story about a litter cleanup using these terms: *Earth Day*, *candy wrapper*, *drink cup*, *trash bag*, *pick up*, *friend*, *playground*, and *littered*.
- Write a haiku about recycling. Be creative!

Extension Activity

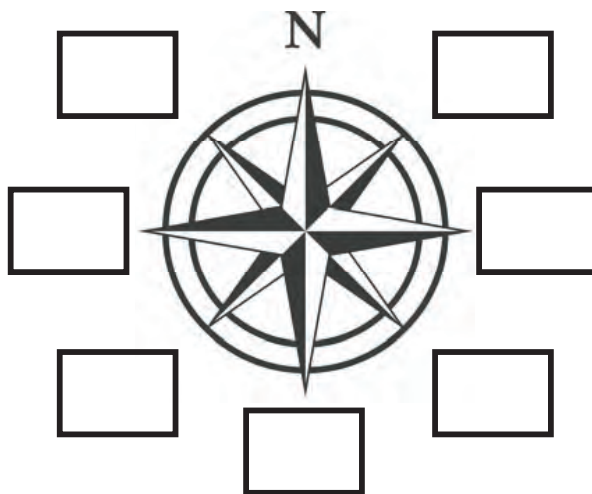
In “Compass Confusion,” students will practice their mapping skills by using cardinal and intermediate directions and determining the direction from one place to another on a map.

Compass Confusion



Name: _____

Directions: Mia and Alejandro need to get information about the Earth Day litter cleanup, picnic, and campfire to all of their friends who are camping in the nearby woods. However, their cell phones aren't working this far from town, so they need to hike to each campsite. They have a problem though. Their compass is only marked with North. Fix the compass by filling in the remaining directions and then use it to guide Mia and Alejandro to each friend's campsite.



What direction do Mia and Alejandro need to go to reach each friend's campsite?

1. Xavier _____
2. Carson _____
3. Emma _____
4. Kaylee _____
5. Jakob _____
6. Jada _____
7. Gianna _____
8. Miguel _____



Xavier



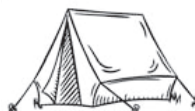
Jada



Kaylee



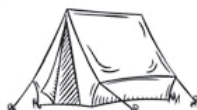
Miguel



Mia & Alejandro's
campsite



Carson



Jakob



Emma



Gianna

Teacher Keys

Scrambled Mess

1. empty, clean, dry
2. plastic, paper, metal
3. plastic, bags
4. hoses, tangle, harm
5. energy, resources, jobs, landfill

Just in Time

1. 1971
2. 18
3. 1971
4. 1996
5. One year

All in the Analogy

1. electricity
2. washing machines
3. Independence Day (OR Fourth of July/July 4th)
4. plastic
5. trade OR reuse

Compass Confusion



Grasping Graphs

1. blue
2. 4
3. Sally; added the blue bars
4. 0
5. cigarette butts
6. cigarette butts
7. cans

1. NW
2. E
3. S
4. NE
5. SW
6. N
7. SE
8. W

Bonus: Answers will vary but will likely mention the small size.

Inspect to Detect

1. tire
2. crane
3. fall
4. play
5. left
6. back
7. pitcher
8. park

Bonus: Answers will vary.

Skills and Standards

Activity	Subject Areas	Skills Addressed
Inspect to Detect	<i>English/ Language Arts</i>	Identifying relationships among words, including more complex homographs, homonyms, synonyms, antonyms, and multiple meanings; Applying foundational reading skills to build reading fluency and comprehension; Demonstrating command of grade appropriate spelling Grade 4: 4.RV.2.2; 4.RF.1; 4.W.6.2
Grasping Graphs	<i>Math</i>	Answering questions using provided data; Using observations to interpret the data using tables, line plots, and bar graphs; Reasoning abstractly and quantitatively; Writing tenths and hundredths in decimal and fraction notations Process Standards: PS.1; PS.2; PS.4; PS.5; PS.6 Grade 4: 4.NS.6; 4.DA.1; 4.DA.3
Scrambled Mess	<i>Science</i>	Developing solutions that could be implemented to reduce the impact of humans on the natural environment; Describing methods humans currently use to extend the use of natural resources; Investigating ways individual communities protect the Earth's resources and environment Grade 4: SEPS.8; 4.ESS.4
Just in Time	<i>Social Studies</i>	Interpreting timelines that show relationships among people, events, and movements in history; Understanding events and developments that brought important changes; Demonstrating an understanding of civic issues; Examining ways people have tried to solve environmental problems Grade 4: 4.1.15; 4.2.6
	<i>English/ Language Arts</i>	Applying knowledge of text features to locate information and gain meaning from a text using charts and graphs; Explaining the relationships between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in a historical text Grade 4: 4.RN.3.1; 4.RN.2.3; 4.RN.3.2
All in the Analogy	<i>English/ Language Arts</i>	Determining how words and phrases provide meaning to literature, including figurative language (e.g., similes, metaphors, or hyperbole); Identifying relationships among words, including multiple meanings, synonyms and antonyms, homographs, metaphors, similes, and analogies Grade 4: 4.RV.3.1; 4.RV.2.2
Article Text	<i>English/ Language Arts/ Media Literacy</i>	Reading and comprehending nonfiction, informational text; Applying context clues to determine meaning of unknown words; Determining meaning of content specific words and phrases in nonfiction text; Developing media literacy Grade 4: 4.RN.1; 4.RN.2.1; 4.RN.2.2; 4.RN.3.1; 4.RN.4.1; 4.RV.2.1; 4.RV.3.2; 4.ML.1