



4H Essay Contest

Grades 4

Sponsored by: **KEEP SEVIER BEAUTIFUL**

Your essay is due at your February 4H meeting. On your essay include your name, address, grade, school and the name of your teacher.

Winning essays will be announced on March 31, 2020.

INSTRUCTIONS

After reading “Can I Recycle Plastic?” and “Drinking Water: Bottled or from the Tap?” write an informative essay in which you compare and contrast the authors’ views on recycling. Include information from the texts to write about the subject knowledgeably. Use details from the passages to help you write your essay. Also, remember to use correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing your essay.

Can I Recycle Plastic?

From the book: Why Should I Recycle Garbage?

By MJ Knight

Millions of plastic bottles are recycled every year. Most plastic is made from oil, and there are about 50 types of plastic. Before they can be recycled, plastic bottles have to be sorted into the different types. Then the bottles are washed and broken into tiny flakes. When these have dried, they can be used to make new things.

Lots of things can be made out of plastic bottles and other items. Soda pop and cooking oil bottles can be made into sleeping bags and parkas, new packaging, wall and floor coverings, and fleece clothing. It takes about 25 two liter bottles to make one fleece jacket. Containers for fruit juice, dish soap, and fabric softener can be made into fences, park benches, and signposts. These bottles can also be refilled and used again and again. Mineral water, juice and shampoo bottles, as well as plastic food trays and plastic wrap, can be made into drainage pipes, electrical fittings, and clothing.

You might think that what you do doesn’t matter, but it does. It matters very much. Every time you recycle plastic containers or use a plastic bag again instead of taking a new one, you take a small step towards making less garbage.

In 2007, the city of San Francisco outlawed plastic bags. The plastic bags were being littered around their beautiful city and were found in the water harming sea life. If everyone in the United States stopped taking plastic bags in stores, there would be 100 billion fewer plastic bags thrown away every year. So why don’t you start? Maybe your family and friends will follow your example.

Drinking Water: Bottled or from the Tap?

By Catherine Clarke Fox

If your family is like many in the United States, unloading the week's groceries includes hauling a case or two of bottled water into your home. On your way to a soccer game or activity, it's easy to grab a cold one right out of the fridge, right?

But all those plastic bottles use a lot of fossil fuels and pollute the environment. In fact, Americans buy more bottled water than any other nation in the world, adding 29 billion water bottles a year to the problem. In order to make all these bottles, manufacturers use 17 million barrels of crude oil. That's enough oil to keep a million cars going for twelve months. Imagine a water bottle filled a quarter of the way up with oil. That's about how much oil was needed to produce the bottle.

So why don't more people drink water straight from the kitchen faucet? Some people drink bottled water because they think it is better for them than water out of the tap, but that's not true. In the United States, local governments make sure water from the faucet is safe. There is also growing concern that chemicals in the bottles themselves may leach into the water.

People love the convenience of bottled water. But maybe if they realized the problems it causes, they would try drinking from a glass at home or carrying water in a refillable steel container instead of plastic.

Plastic bottle recycling can help-instead of going out with the trash, plastic bottles can be turned into items like carpeting or cozy fleece clothing.

Unfortunately, for every six water bottles we use, only one makes it to the recycling bin. The rest are sent to landfills. Or, even worse, they end up as trash on the land and in rivers, lakes, and the ocean. Plastic bottles take many hundreds of years to disintegrate.

Water is good for you, so keep drinking it. But think about how often you use water bottles, and see if you can make a change. And yes, you can make a difference. Remember this: Recycling one plastic bottle can save enough energy to power a 60-watt light bulb for six hours.