20 MINUTE ACTIVITY: TRASHKETBALL - LEVEL 2

OVERVIEW:

Every time you throw something away, do you wonder if it belongs in the trash, recycle bin, or even the compost? Prepare to get your Kobe on and play our Trashketball game to make sorting your trash easy and fun.

MATERIAL CHECKLIST

- Game Rules (provided)
- Waste Items—recyclable and non-recyclable
  - You will need twice as many items as there are students on each team. For example, if there are four (4) students on each team, you would need eight (8) total items. Any combination of recyclable and non-recyclable items is okay. For example, you can have five (5) recyclable items and three (3) non-recyclable items
    - Do not use electronic items in this game (as those are considered e-waste)
    - As this is for older students, choose items that are a bit more difficult to sort.
- Trash or Recycling Cheat Sheet (provided)
- Classroom size trash bin
- Classroom size recycling bin (if you do not have a recycling bin, take an ordinary classroom size trash bin and wrap it with blue construction paper or the color associated with recycling in your city)
- Extra bin or container to hold waste items
- Tape
- Timer
- Coin
- OPTIONAL: attachable basketball nets
- OPTIONAL: Add composting to Trashketball! This will require: a bin for compost, ping pong balls, and either food stickers to stick on the ping pong balls or a sharpie to write the names of food on the ping pong balls.
  - Incorporate the ping pong balls however you like. For example, have 1/3 of the items be recyclable items, 1/3 of the items be trash items, and 1/3 of the items be ping pong balls.
  - Example of food stickers can be found here.
  - Make sure the compost items are not too easy to identify by mixing in some recyclable and non-recyclable stickers or words on the ping pong balls too!

For more activities, resources and ways to take action, please visit gradesofgreen.org.
ACTIVITY STEPS:

1. Collect enough examples of trash and recycle items to equal twice as many items as there will be students participating either from lunchtime or throughout the week. Try to find items that students commonly have on campus. Examples of possible trash and recycle items can be found in the Trash or Recycling Cheat Sheet. Once the items are collected, make sure you, the game leader (which will be picked in step 2), and any other volunteers know exactly which item would go in trash or recycling.

2. On the day you will be playing Trashketball, select one student as the game leader. The game leader will take the trash bin and recycling bin and set them both up against a wall in your classroom. Leave approximately one (1) to two (2) feet between each bin. If you do have the optional attachable basketball nets, attach one to each bin.
   - When choosing the wall to place the bins, make sure there is room available to allow space between the bins and the shooting line.

3. The game leader will stand directly in front of the bins and take approximately ten (10) to fourteen (14) steps away from the bins to establish a shooting line where students will be allowed to shoot their items. Once established, mark the shooting line by laying down a piece of tape on the floor. The 10 – 14 steps are a recommendation. Set whatever distance you feel is appropriate, but keep in mind that it should not be too easy to make a shot.

4. The game leader will split the students into two even teams. If you have an odd number of students, it is okay to have one extra person on one team.

5. Place all waste items in the extra bin and place the extra bin at the shooting line for students to reach for items.

6. The game leader will flip a coin to see which team gets to shoot first. Before flipping, the two teams will choose either heads or tails. The team that wins the coin flip will have the first turn.

7. Before each team starts, the game leader will have a timer ready. The game leader will announce when each team has half their allotted time remaining and when there are ten (10) seconds left. If it is decided that there will be more than sixty (60) seconds for the teams to shoot, you may announce when there are thirty (30) seconds left. Here are some recommendations for allotted time for different sized teams:
   - Eight (8) students total, four (4) per team = forty (40) seconds
   - Twelve (12) students total, six (6) per team = sixty (60) seconds
   - Twenty (20) students total, ten (10) per team = one hundred (100) seconds
   - Twenty-five (25) students total, twelve/thirteen (12/13) per team = one hundred and twenty (120) seconds
   - Again, these are just recommendations. Set the time to whatever you feel is appropriate!

8. The team that won the coin toss will stand at the shooting line. As soon as the game leader says “GO,” begin the game. One student at a time, each student will pick an item out of the extra bin that holds all the mixed waste. Once the item is picked, the student will have to decide whether the item can be recycled or whether it has to go in the trash bin. If the student is not sure which bin to choose, their team can help them choose. Once the decision is made the student will shoot the item like a basketball into the bin that they believe is correct. Once that student has taken their shot, repeat this step for every student on the team.
   - Keep the game fast paced by avoiding taking too long to decide and too long to shoot. Have the students on each team quickly decide and give an answer to the student that is about to shoot for their team (if they want/need help) and have the student quickly shoot while trying to be accurate and make the item into the bin.

9. After the first team has either shot all items or run out of time, the game leader will have the first team return to their seats. The game leader will then remove all the waste items from the waste and recycling bins and tally up the score. If the team made the shot and chose the correct bin, the team will receive one (1) point. If the team made the shot but chose the incorrect bin, the team will receive no (0) points. If the team misses both bins, the team will

For more activities, resources and ways to take action, please visit gradesofgreen.org.
receive no (0) points. If there are waste items remaining in the extra bin, no (0) points will be
given or lost. Once the score has been recorded, place all the mixed waste back in to the extra
bin.

- The game leader will NOT announce the first teams score. The game leader will make
  note of the score and keep it to themselves until the second team has finished shooting
  the waste items. This is to prevent the second team from which bin the waste items go
  into and from knowing what score they need to beat.

10. Repeat steps 8-9 for the second team.

11. When the game leader has both scores calculated, they will announce the Trashketball winner.

12. In the event of a tie, each team will pick one student to represent their team. The game leader
    will pick a question for the two students to answer. The first of the two students to raise their
    hand will answer first. If they answer correctly, they will win the game for their team. If they
    answer incorrectly, the other student will have the opportunity to answer and win the game
    for their team. Here are some questions the game leader could ask:

- What bin would put a greasy cardboard pizza box in?
  - Answer: trash
    - Why: food stains on the box means it cannot be recycled.

- What bin would you put dead batteries in?
  - Answer: neither
    - Why: collect dead batteries and bring them to any place that recycled
      electronics are collected. Dead batteries can leak toxins into the ground
      when brought to landfills.
    - Keep letting the two students answer until one of them answers correctly. To
      some students, this may be a trick question.

- How many plastic bottles would you save every year by using a reusable water bottle?
  - Answer: 1,460
  - Let both students answer the question. After they have both answered, pick the
    answer closest to 1,460 if neither say the correct number.

13. Once the game has ended, have the students start a discussion about which waste items go in
    which bin and why. After they finish discussing amongst themselves, you can begin explaining
    why each waste item can or cannot be recycled. Then, you can use the following questions to
    guide the discussion:

- Did you learn that you have been putting certain waste items in to the incorrect bins?
- What are some ways you can identify whether an item belongs in the trash or in a
  recycling bin?
  - Examples:
    - Recyclable items covered with food cannot be recycled.
    - Recyclable items have the recycle symbol on them, but something like
      aluminum foil can be recycled and does not have the symbol.
    - Single use items like wrappers should be thrown into the trash.
- What can you do to reduce the amount of trash you produce?
  - Use reusable containers and items like lunch boxes, stainless steel water bottles,
    cloth napkins, reusable utensils, etc.
  - Buy items in bulk. For example, instead of buying individual snack size pouches
    of food, purchase one big bag and portion out one handful of the snack each day
    in a reusable container.

RECOMMENDED GRADES OF GREEN ACTIVITIES:

- In-Class Waste Activity
- Waste Earth Tips
- Trash Free Lunches

For more activities, resources and ways to take action, please visit gradesofgreen.org.
Campus Composting
In-Class Recycling
Waste Sorting Station

For more activities, resources and ways to take action, please visit gradesofgreen.org.
POSSIBLE TRASH EXAMPLES

- Chip bags
- Granola Bar wrappers
- All flimsy wrappers
- Juice boxes
- Foil lined juice pouches
- All leftover food that cannot be composted
- All items that are messy or soiled with grease, food, etc.
- Utensils and straws
- Plastic single use baggies

POSSIBLE RECYCLE EXAMPLES

- Empty milk cartons
- Empty plastic food cups, such as those that hold yogurt or fruit
- Clean tin foil
- Plastic “clamshell” like containers (like salad containers)
- Clean paper “boat” trays
- Clean Plastic cups from hot lunch
- Empty Plastic bottles
- Metal cans
- Glass bottles
- Paper

POSSIBLE COMPOST EXAMPLES

- Banana peel
- Apple core
- Strawberry tops
- Celery ends
- Orange peels
- Pear core
- Grape stems

For more activities, resources and ways to take action, please visit gradesofgreen.org.