

Sorting Bingo

THEME	Sorting & Blue Bins	MATERIALS (Low Prep) - Printed Bingo cards with different waste items for the kids to “sort.” (1 per team or student) - Coloured pencils or crayons: 4 Blue = Recycling X Red = Garbage Green = Compost - Material List for items to call out (can be written on board) Optional: Recyclepedia website or app
GRADE LEVEL(S)	3 – 4	
ESTIMATED TIME	40 – 45 minutes	
KEY TERMS	Recycle Items are processed into new products or packaging. Compost Organic waste that decomposes naturally. Garbage Items that go to the landfill. Contamination Incorrect items in bins. Blue Bin Manitoba’s residential recycling container. Material Recovery Facility (MRF) Facility that sorts recycling by material type.	



Why This Lesson Matters

Incorrect sorting can cause **contamination** in recycling. Contamination happens when things that don’t belong – like food scraps, plastic bags, or containers with leftovers like peanut butter – end up in the blue bin. Even though MRFs can sort out many of these mistakes, too much contamination can spoil paper and cardboard or make it harder to sort materials properly. By learning to keep garbage and food out of the recycling, students help make sure more materials are actually turned into something new.

Learning Objectives

- Identify whether everyday items belong in Recycling, Compost, or Garbage.
- Reinforce sorting knowledge through game-based repetition.
- Collaborate and explain reasoning within groups.



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Lesson Sequence

1. Hook (5 min)

Ask about confusing items. Use a chip bag or a pizza box as an example. (A pizza box is tricky because it's only recyclable if it's mostly clean; if the bottom is too greasy, they can rip off the top and recycle that portion. Perfect for an opening discussion and a teaching point. And kids love to take this "new" information to their family.)

2. Mini Lesson (5 min)

Review the 3-bin system and introduce the colour code.

3. Main Activity – Sorting Bingo (25 – 30 min)

1. Sort students into small teams.
2. Call out items from the Material Bank one at a time.
3. Students check their cards. If the item appears, colour-code it by bin. They mark the item box with the colour (and/or the mark: 4; X; ♣) of the bin they think it goes in.
4. First full row, column, or diagonal = 'BINGO!'
5. The team explains their sorting aloud. Class checks answers together.
6. If they have all the items sorted right, they win. If not, the game continues.
7. Use the Material Bank or search *Recyclepedia* together to verify tricky items if needed.

4. Wrap-Up (5 – 10 min)

Discuss confusing items. Ask: "What will you do differently at home?"

Optional Extensions

HOME	Take the Bingo card home and ask family about 3 items.
TECH	Use <i>Recyclepedia</i> to check items.
ART	Create a sorting cheat sheet with colour coding and images.



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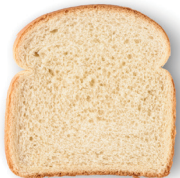
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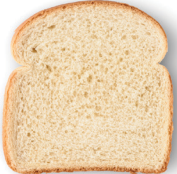
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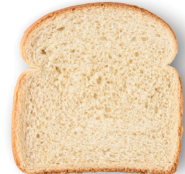
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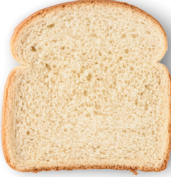
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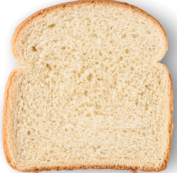
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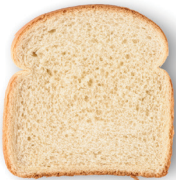
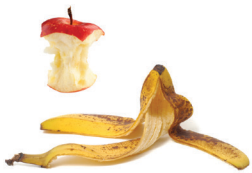
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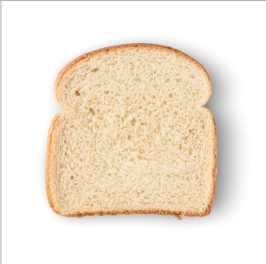
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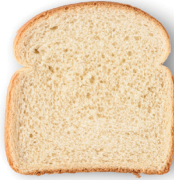
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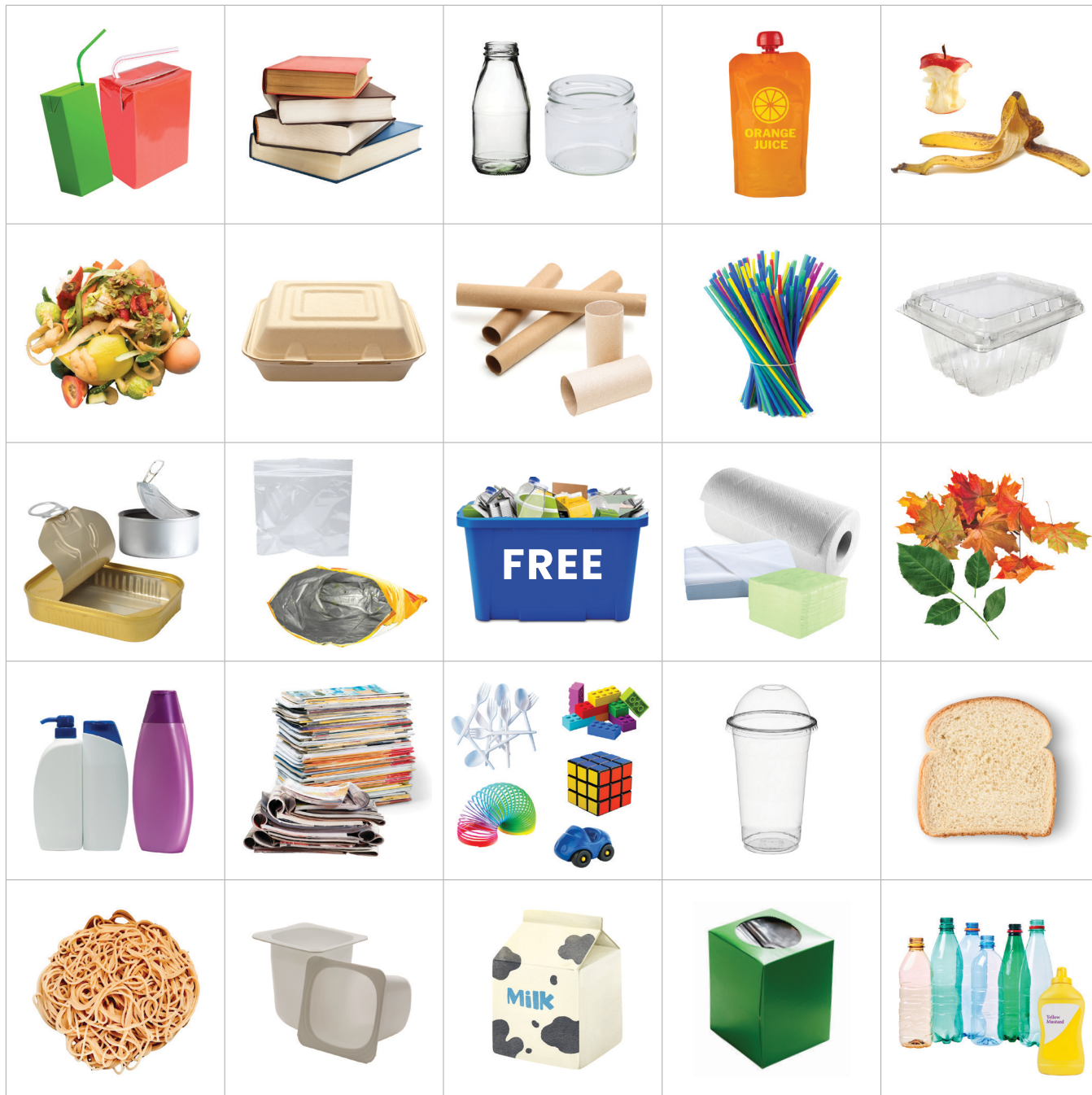
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