

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

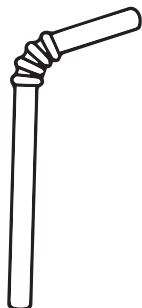
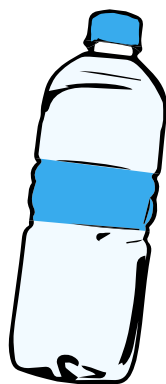
Name _____

Date _____ Park _____

When you throw something away, where does it go? Trash usually ends up in landfills, where over time it slowly breaks apart into tiny pieces. But some trash lasts much longer than others. Plastic takes years to break down, and when it lingers it can sometimes end up in nature, where animals might eat it by mistake or become tangled in it.

How long do you think it takes each of these objects to break down? Match each object on the left to a time on the right (you can check the answers on the bottom).

How Long Do I Stay?



200 Years

8 Weeks



450 Years

20 Years



Plastic Water Bottle - 450 Years Apple Core - 8 weeks
Plastic Straw - 200 years Plastic Bag - 20 years





SERVICE ACTIVITY

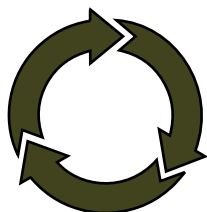
REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Just because you can't see it doesn't mean it's gone. When plastic breaks down, it leaves behind tiny pieces that can still harm the environment. Plastic waste is one of the biggest threats to keeping Florida clean and healthy. To do your part, remember these three words: Reduce, reuse, recycle.



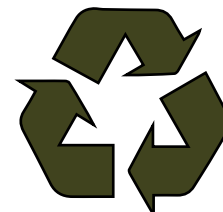
Reduce

Reduce means the less plastic you use, the less you throw away. Skipping the straw is a great way to reduce your plastic waste.



Reuse

Reuse means buying products that can be used more than once. Refillable water bottles and reusable shopping bags are examples of reusable products.



Recycle

Recycle means disposing of plastic properly, so it can be turned into something new. Plastic water bottles are a common item that can be recycled.

What Can YOU Do?

Think about the things you and your family use and buy regularly. Then in the spaces provided, think about how you can reduce, reuse and recycle plastic every day.

Some ways I can reduce how much plastic I use are...

Some of the things I can reuse instead of buying new every time are...

Some things that I will always recycle are...
