



WHAT IF... WORKSHEET

SUBJECT AREAS: science, technology, social studies

KEY CONCEPTS: resource management, waste management and minimization, environmental stewardship

GRADES: 3-5

MATERIALS: printouts of the What If... Exercise Sheet for each student, pencils.

OVERVIEW

The What If... Exercise Sheet is an educational, classroom-based activity that helps students understand e-waste recycling and motivates them to take part.

PROCEDURE

Distribute the What If... Exercise Sheet to students and walk them through the activity.

WHAT IF... WORKSHEET

- 1.** What if... we never threw anything out? What would the inside of our homes or even this classroom look like?

Write down three words that describe how things would look and/or feel to you.

- 2.** What if... we threw out the wrong things? Have you ever accidentally thrown out something important to you, like a birthday card? How would this make you feel?

Put a check mark beside the words that apply.

Angry Sad Sorry Silly

- 3.** What if... you saw someone throw out a birthday card that you knew had money in it, or a precious metal, like a shiny gold coin? What if... someone threw out an old, broken cell phone? Did you know that cell phones—all electronics, really—contain gold and other precious metals that can be reused?

Circle the examples that show what you would do (hint: there are two).

- a. Get angry at the person
- b. Remove the cell phone from the trash
- c. Recycle the cell phone properly
- d. Forget about it

WHAT IF... WORKSHEET

4. What if... we didn't throw out things responsibly?

Draw a line between each used item and the new object it could become if it is recycled responsibly. Then put a big "x" across each line.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Apple core • | • Olympic gold medal |
| Piece of paper • | • Worm compost to grow plants |
| Broken computer • | • New book |

5. What if... when we don't recycle items, we miss out on a second benefit?

Draw a line between each recycled object and its second benefit. Then put a big "x" across each line.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Worm compost to grow plants • | • Pride in athletes |
| New book • | • More trees and less pollution |
| Olympic gold medal • | • Healthy food for everyone |

6. What if... we did recycle everything, including old electronics, responsibly?

Write a paragraph about how the world benefits when we recycle things, including old electronics, responsibly. Make sure you explain how you feel about those benefits.