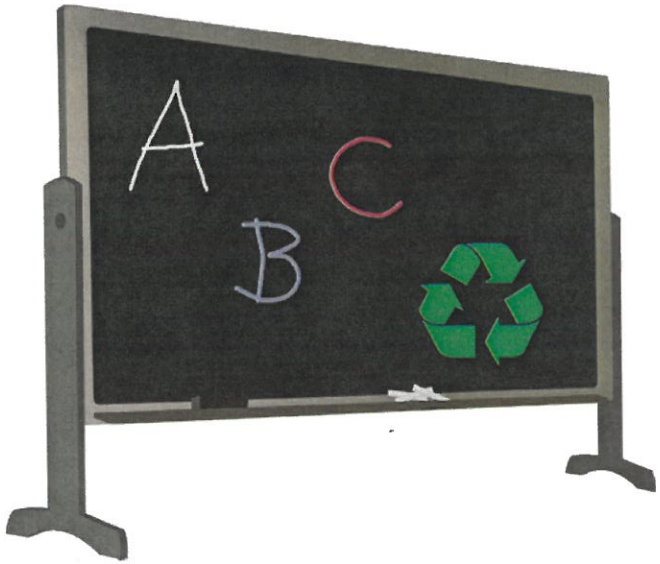

Chicago Textile Recycling

GRADES 3-5

Since 1932
SMART
SECONDARY MATERIALS AND RECYCLED TEXTILES

The Association of Wiping Materials, Used Clothing and Fiber Industries

donate recycle don't throw away®

Powers of Persuasion

Writing opinion pieces, supporting a point of view with reasons and information

Share facts from the Textile Recycling Fact Sheet and the infographic mini poster with your students. Students may be surprised to learn that clothing and textiles can be recycled—just like glass, paper, aluminum, and plastic!

Once students have learned the facts, urge them to share these facts and raise others' awareness as well. Introduce the different persuasion techniques with your class:

- bandwagon—a statement suggesting that everyone is doing something, and the reader should too
- slogan—a catchy phrase or statement
- repetition—repetition of a title, a product name, or an important fact
- testimonial—a well-known person speaks in favor of a topic
- emotional appeal—a person is depicted as having strong feelings about an issue
- expert opinion—an endorsement from someone who is an authority

In advance, gather several student-appropriate magazines that contain advertising. Divide the class into six groups, and assign each group one of the persuasion techniques. Then challenge them to find and share several examples of their assigned technique. Once each group understands its technique, direct the groups to each create a poster or banner to display in the hallway to teach others about textile recycling—and to persuade them to give it a try!

Teacher tip: *Check out the Wear It? Recycle It! poster contest hosted by SMART: Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles Association. Your students' posters could be the start of a winning entry!*

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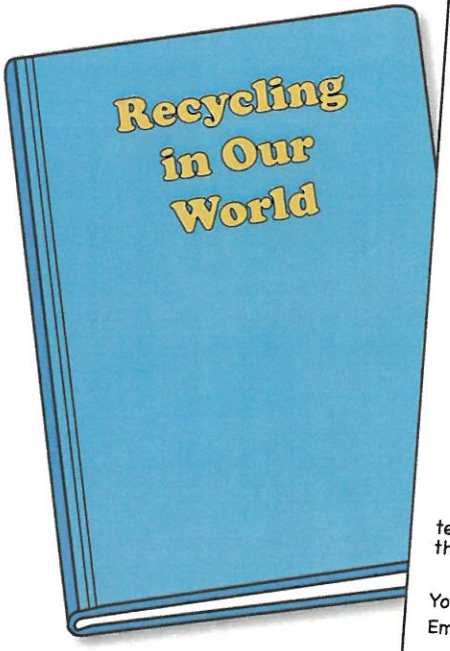
Oh So Opinionated!

Writing opinion pieces supporting a point of view with reasons; explaining how an author uses evidence to support points in a text; integrating information from two texts to write about the subject

Get students reading and writing about textile recycling and other types of recycling with this activity. Check out a variety of library books about recycling. Give each student a chance to read at least one book; then discuss with students the benefits of different types of recycling and the types of recycling covered in the books. Students will likely find that, while recycling paper, metal, glass, and plastic is well represented in the books, recycling textiles such as clothing and linens is not covered (or not covered as thoroughly). Discuss with students how the books' authors use reasons and evidence to support particular points about recycling.

Next, challenge students to write letters to the book publishers and authors to persuade them to include information about textile recycling in the next edition of their book. Remind students to use information from the books and from the Textile Recycling Fact Sheet and infographic mini poster to back up their opinions. Who knows, students might be surprised to see what the next edition of the book includes!

Teacher tip: *Display the letters on a bulletin board titled "A New Chapter: Clothing and Other Textiles Should Be Recycled Too!"*



Dear Author,

I read your book, *Recycling in Our World*. I thought you did a good job of explaining why recycling is so important, and I learned a lot of important information.

I was sorry to see that you did not include clothing and textiles with the types of items that can be recycled. Our class is learning about textile recycling. I'd like to share some important facts with you:

- Any textile—worn, torn, or stained—can be recycled.
- The average US citizen throws away 70 pounds of clothing every year.
- 95% of fabrics can be recycled. But right now, only 15% are donated. The rest go to landfills.
- Recycled textiles are used for many purposes. T-shirts can be turned into rags for cleaning, wiping, and polishing. Wool sweaters can be turned into carpet padding. Even old stuffed toys can be turned into seat padding for cars.

I hope you'll take time to learn more about textile recycling, as our class has and add that information to your next book.

Your loyal reader,
Emily

donate recycle don't throw away®

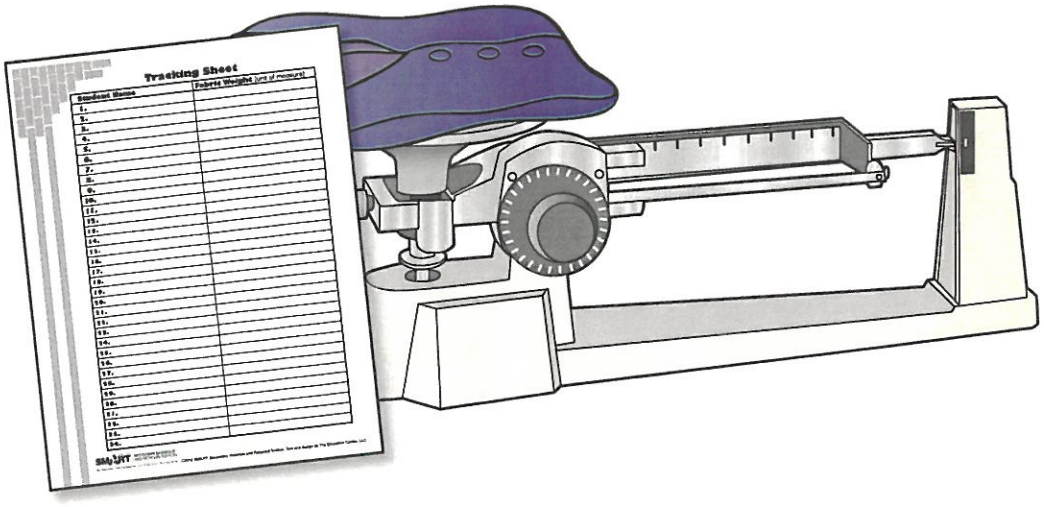
Textile Recycling Measures Up!

Solving problems involving measurement and conversion of measurements from a larger unit to a smaller unit

Give students' measurement skills a workout while demonstrating how quickly clothing and other textiles add up in landfills. Ask each student to bring in one piece of old clothing. (Make sure families know that the clothing won't be returned and will be donated to a charity after the activity.) Using your balance scale, have each student measure the weight of his or her item and list it on the tracking sheet (scroll down). As a class, calculate the total weight of the items and discuss how one might easily find this many items when cleaning out a closet or dresser. Continue the math practice by having students convert pounds to ounces and kilograms to grams. Once the activity is complete, drop off the clothes at a charity.

Teacher tip: *For a quick math game, divide the class into teams. Call two pairs of students to the board and have them race to add their textiles' weights, subtract to find which student's textile is heavier and how much heavier it is, convert the combined weights to ounces, or round off the combined weights to the nearest pound or kilogram.*

For a quick science investigation, gather several different types of textiles, including towels, T-shirts, socks, and pillowcases. Cut an equal-size piece from each (about the size of a washcloth). Also gather some paper towels. Ask students to predict which item will absorb the most water. Then put equal amounts of water in plastic cups and place the textile pieces inside. After a few minutes, remove the textile pieces and examine the cups to see how much water remains. Students will see how useful recycled textiles can be!



Tracking Sheet

Student Name	Textile Weight (Be sure to list the unit of measure.)
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
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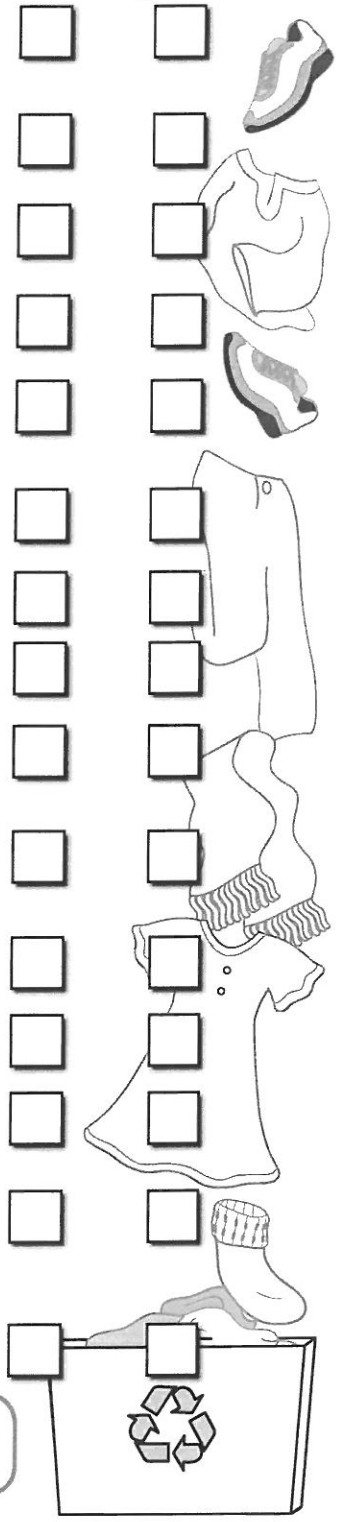
30.	
31.	
32.	
33.	
34.	

Name _____ Fact or opinion

Be Smart About Textile Recycling!

Check the box to show whether each sentence is a fact or an opinion.
Underline the key words that helped you.

	Fact	Opinion
1. Worn, torn, or stained textiles can be recycled.	☐	☐
2. The average US citizen throws away 70 pounds of clothing each year.	☐	☐
3. Rags made from old T-shirts are fun to use for cleaning, wiping, and polishing.	☐	☐
4. Every year, 21 billion pounds of textiles go to our landfills.	☐	☐
5. Clothing items that are donated to charities should make people happy.	☐	☐
6. You will get a good night's sleep if your pillow is stuffed with pieces from mismatched socks.	☐	☐
7. Fibers from old jeans are used to make home insulation.	☐	☐
8. Torn bath towels are used to make wiping cloths.	☐	☐
9. Recycling clothing and textiles is the best thing to do for our planet.	☐	☐
10. Old stuffed animals make the most comfortable stuffing for automotive seats.	☐	☐
11. Wool sweaters are itchy, but they make good carpet padding.	☐	☐
12. Ninety-five percent of textiles can be reused or recycled.	☐	☐
13. Landfills are too large and too smelly.	☐	☐
14. Charities make over $100 million by reselling clothing or selling textiles to be recycled into wiping rags, carpet padding, and insulation.	☐	☐
15. Everyone is excited to donate or recycle clothing instead of throwing it away.	☐	☐



Bonus: On the back of your paper, rewrite the opinion sentences to be facts.

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Answer Key

Be Smart About Textile Recycling!

1. fact
2. fact
3. opinion
4. fact
5. opinion
6. opinion
7. fact
8. fact
9. opinion
10. opinion
11. opinion
12. fact
13. opinion
14. fact
15. opinion

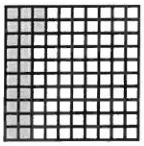
Bonus: Answers will vary.

Name _____ Fractions, decimals, percents

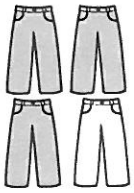
Wear It? Recycle It!

Write each shaded portion as a fraction, decimal, or percent.

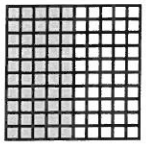
1. fraction: _____
   decimal: _____
   percent: _____



2. fraction: _____
   decimal: _____
   percent: _____



3. fraction: _____
   decimal: _____
   percent: _____



Read each statement. Write each percent as a fraction and decimal.

4. 95% of textiles, worn or torn, can be recycled.
   fraction: _____ decimal: _____
5. Only 15% of textiles are actually donated or recycled.
   fraction: _____ decimal: _____
6. 85% of textiles worn go to our landfills.
   fraction: _____ decimal: _____
7. 45% of donated textiles are clothes that can be worn again.
   fraction: _____ decimal: _____
8. 20% of donated textiles can be turned into fibers to make other items such as carpeting.
   fraction: _____ decimal: _____
9. 30% of donated textiles can be used for other purposes, such as cleaning cloths.
   fraction: _____ decimal: _____

Read each problem. Round your answer to the nearest pound.

10. You are dropping off 27 pounds of old clothes at a charity. If 95% can be recycled, how many pounds of clothes will be recycled?
    _____
11. Your sister just cleaned out her closet. She is taking 17 pounds of clothes to a charity. If 45% can be worn again, how many pounds of clothes will that be? _____
12. Your aunt is moving, and she took 52 pounds of old towels, sheets, and linens to be recycled. If 30% can be turned into wiping rags, how many pounds will that be?
    _____
13. Your little brother has outgrown last year's clothes. You are helping your family drop off 32 pounds of old clothes at a charity. If 95% can be recycled, how many pounds of clothes will be recycled? _____
14. Oops! The clothes just came out of the dryer, and someone left a pen in a pocket. The laundry is ruined. Your dad takes 12 pounds of stained fabrics to a charity. If 30% can be used for other purposes, such as wiping rags, how many pounds will that be? _____

Answer Key

Wear It? Recycle It!

1. fraction: 22/100, or 11/50
   decimal: .22
   percent: 22%

2. fraction: 3/4
   decimal: .75
   percent: 75%

3. fraction: 50/100, or 1/2
   decimal: .50
   percent: 50%

4. fraction: 95/100, or 19/20
   percent: .95

5. fraction: 15/100, or 3/20
   percent: .15

6. fraction: 85/100, or 17/20
   percent: .85

7. fraction: 45/100, or 9/20
   percent: .45

8. fraction: 20/100, or 1/5
   percent: .20

9. fraction: 30/100, or 3/10
   percent: .30

10. 26 pounds
11. 8 pounds
12. 16 pounds
13. 30 pounds
14. 4 pounds