

Completing the Circle



Hey kids! It's me, Earth! I'm all about recycling the planet's waste through decomposition and other natural processes, but I need your help to recycle the waste that people create.



You may have noticed that not everything you consider trash has this mark. In that case, what are people supposed to do? It starts with understanding the difference between renewable and non-renewable resources.

Part 1.

Renewable resources are things that are renewed within a relatively short period of time or may never run out, such as plants, animals, sun, wind, air, water, etc.



Non-renewable resources are things that are renewed over extremely long periods of time, from hundreds to millions of years, or that are available in fixed amounts, such as minerals and fossil fuels.

Some products you might use are listed below. Unscramble their names and then write an "R" if they come from renewable resources or an "NR" if they come from non-renewable resources.

Product	R or NR?
1. llec nohpe c _ _ l _ _ h _ _ _	___
2. lsasg lttboe _ _ a _ _ b _ _ t _ _	___
3. bdarcdrao xbo _ _ r _ b _ _ r d _ o _	___
4. dosa nac _ o _ _ _ a _	___
5. rniptre tdgrarcise _ r _ _ t _ _ _ r _ r _ _ e _	___
6. dveio mgea _ i _ _ o _ a _ e	___
lsonceo _ _ n _ _ e	___
7. nanbaa _ _ _ a _ _	___
8. ticlpsa tonarc _ l _ s _ _ _ c _ _ t _ _	___
9. pucomert _ _ _ p _ _ _ _	___

Good News! What's lighter, smaller, and better? Consumer tech devices, that's what! Thanks to innovation in product design and manufacturing, the amount of non-renewable resources in consumer tech devices has actually *decreased*. Not only are we doing a better job of completing the circle, but we're also making that circle smaller!



Part 2.

Listed at right are ideas to help lessen the impact of waste on the environment. Add an idea of your own for each. Now choose one product from each resource category ("R" and "NR") from Part 1. Follow your teacher's directions to determine a "future" for each one.



Reduce by finding ways to create less waste:

- Only print final versions of documents to save paper, ink, and electricity.
- Idea 2. _____



Reuse by finding new uses for old items:

- Donate your old but still-working computer to a charity.
- Idea 2. _____



Recycle old products into new ones:

- Separate recyclables from your other trash.
- Idea 2. _____

