

# Waste Sorting Game Instructions

## Game Rules:

- Goal of the Game: To earn as many points as possible by responsibly sorting waste “beads.”
- Each bead color represents a different kind of waste: landfill waste, recyclable waste, and compostable waste.
- Only one student from each group at a time can cross the finish line to sort a “waste bead”
- Point System:
  - +1 point for each trash bead sorted into landfill (Round 1)
  - +3 points for each trash bead sorted into compost or recycling (Round 1 and 2)
  - 3 points for incorrectly sorted trash beads (Round 1 and 2)

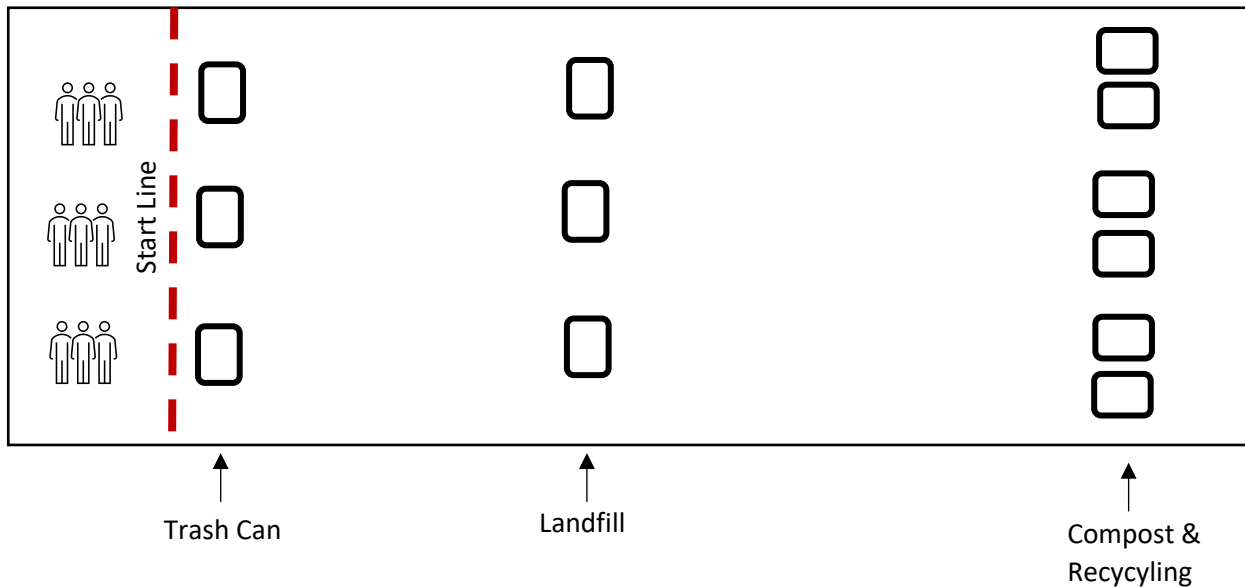
## Procedure:

1. Present the first five slides discussing with students the trash the produce in their everyday lives, trash in nature, and trash in landfills.
2. Divide students into groups of 2-4 and provide each group with “trash can” and “landfill” containers spaced about 3 meters apart and a starting line as shown in the diagram below. Fill the “trash can” containers with mixed beads.



3. Round 1: Inform the students of the rules of the game related to landfills and the goal of this round: to dispose of as much trash as possible in the landfill to earn as many points as possible in the time provided. Say “Go” and let students proceed until more than half of the beads are sorted from the trash, then have the students stop and count their points. Keep score in a place where all students can see the score.

4. Add recycling and compost containers each spaced 4-5 meters from the landfill container and present the remaining slides about recycling and composting.



5. Round 2: Tell students what the colors of the beads represent. Tell them the rest of the point system: 3 points are rewarded for each bead sorted into compost and recycling and 3 points are subtracted for incorrectly sorted beads and ask them why they think that might be.  
Answer: There is nowhere to put compost at a recycling plant and nowhere to put recycling at a compost plant, so it consumes time and money for the facilities to handle incorrect waste.
6. Inform students that the goal of the game has stayed the same, to earn as many points as possible, but this time they may choose where they sort them.
7. Have the students proceed with round 2, adding more beads to all of the trash cans at the same time as they get low. Stop adding beads when it is clear that students have developed a strategy for how to sort the beads responsibly and to earn the most points. The game stops when the first group runs out of beads. The hope is that students sort recyclable and compostable materials for more points. If one group sorts all trash into the landfill, wait until another group that is using the other bins has sorted almost all their trash.
8. Have the students count their beads and update their points total. Award the winning group and have them explain their winning strategy.
9. See "Discussion Questions."

Container Labels

<b>TRASH</b>	<b>TRASH</b>	<b>TRASH</b>
<b>LANDFILL</b>	<b>LANDFILL</b>	<b>LANDFILL</b>
<b>COMPOST FACILITY</b>	<b>COMPOST FACILITY</b>	<b>COMPOST FACILITY</b>
<b>RECYCLING PLANT</b>	<b>RECYCLING PLANT</b>	<b>RECYCLING PLANT</b>