

## Lesson Plan

### Reduce or Recycle?

**Book:** *E-Waste in Guiyu, China*

**Series:** 21st Century Disasters

**Level:** Beacon

### Objective

To have students participate in small-group and large-group discussions about a text's main ideas.

### Supplies

- *E-Waste in Guiyu, China* book
- Whiteboard

### Before the Activity

Read *E-Waste in Guiyu, China* out loud, or assign it to students to read on their own.

### Activity

*E-Waste in Guiyu, China* describes how people are working to reduce and recycle e-waste. Write the words *reduce* and *recycle* on the whiteboard. Ask two volunteers to look up these words in the book's glossary on page 30 and write their definitions on the board:

- recycle: to take apart an old item and make the pieces into something new
- reduce: to lower the size, amount, or weight of something

Next, open the book to page 11 and choose a volunteer to read this page out loud:

- "E-waste is any trash that has electronic parts. Most e-waste comes from old or broken devices. TVs, computers, and cell phones are common sources. But e-waste comes from other appliances, too."

Ask students to brainstorm other things people throw away as trash, writing their answers on the board. Have students think about one kind of trash they create at home. Ask them to think of one way they could reduce this trash and one way they could recycle it. Give students a minute to think on their own. Then have them turn to a neighbor and share their answers. After a few minutes, come back together as a class. Invite some volunteers to share their ideas with the whole class.

**Evaluation**

Could students identify other types of trash people create? Could they think of ways to reduce or recycle those items?

**Standards**

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' speaking and listening standards, grade 3 (SL 3.1, 3.4), and language standards, grade 3 (L 3.4).