

Buried Treasure Lesson 2C: Recycling Paper

## Reading Selection

### Paper: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Take a look around the room. How many things can you find that are made of paper? Books, cereal boxes, and other packaging are just a few examples of products made from paper. But have you ever thought about how paper is made?

Paper is made from trees. And trees are a valuable part of our world. Not only do trees provide us with shade, beauty, and homes for wildlife, they also help clean the air of carbon dioxide. If too many trees are cut down, this is bad for the environment.

Did you know that every year, Americans throw away enough paper to build a wall that is 12 feet high and stretches from Los Angeles to New York City? We can **reduce** the amount of paper we use, **reuse** paper by writing on both sides, and **recycle** paper to help protect the trees in our environment. In one year alone, some recycling companies have saved over 41 million trees!

Paper can be a treasured resource! Items like newspaper can be recycled into paperboard, new newsprint, insulation, and even animal bedding. By placing clean paper that is not shredded into a recycling bin, we each can do our part to save trees. (Shredded paper or paper that is contaminated with items such as stickers becomes difficult for recycling centers to sort or can damage recycling equipment.) Finally, don't forget to recycle this reading page once you have learned the information!