

Teacher Guide: Battery Recycling Basics



Learning objectives

Students will be able to:

- Explain why batteries need a special drop-off instead of the home recycling bin.
- Sort safe and unsafe choices with used batteries.
- Name one way to reduce battery waste.

Materials

- Worksheet (2 pages) and coloring sheet, one per student
- Pencils and crayons or colored pencils
- Optional: a few new, sealed batteries to show the class (teacher holds them)

Safety notes

- Students should not handle used, damaged, leaking, or swollen batteries. Adults collect and store them.
- Keep coin and button batteries away from young children. They are a serious swallowing hazard.

Lesson flow

1. **Warm-up (5 min):** "What at home uses batteries?" List answers on the board.
2. **Read together (5 min):** Read the "Read it" box aloud on page 1.
3. **Worksheet (15-20 min):** Parts A-E, alone or in pairs.
4. **Discuss (5-10 min):** Use the questions below.
5. **Coloring sheet:** Early finishers or take-home.

Discussion questions

- Why do you think batteries get their own drop-off spot?
- What could happen if a battery got crushed in a garbage or recycling truck?
- What are some ways your family could use fewer batteries?
- Who can you ask for help if you find an old battery at home?