

Name : _____

Group : _____

The following activity is part of "Gère tes matières", a collaboration between the Monique-Fitz-Back Foundation and Québec'ERE. Its goal is to make you, your staff and your school's administration aware of the important role that the school environment can play in the sound management of residual materials (RMM) in Quebec. Visit the ["Gère tes matières" website](#) for more information.

BIN CHAMPION

TEXT COMPREHENSION

Welcome dear neighbours!

Last week, my parents and I went over to our new neighbours house to welcome them, a tradition in our neighbourhood. To get to know them better, we invited them over to our place for coffee. So, the Genest family came for a visit with their 2 children, Barbara and Alexandre.



Mr. Genest drives a truck for a living, but not just any truck: the selective collection truck. That's right! He's the one who picks up the recyclables we put in our recycling bin.

He explained how his big truck works, and where he dumps the materials he collects every day. Several times a day, when his truck is full, he has to empty its contents at a recycling facility, also known as a sorting facility. This is where materials such as cardboard and glass collected from citizens and merchants are sorted.

When Mr. Genest arrives at the recycling facility, he unloads the contents of his truck. Paper and cardboard are sorted and sent on a conveyor belt to a sorting room. Glass, metal, and plastic are sent to another room.

All these materials are then sorted by hand. In each sorting room, a conveyor divides the room into two sections. Several employees gather around it to sort the materials by category.

In the first sorting room, cardboard is removed, followed by newsprint and then white paper. These materials are then pressed and baled. A bale has a rectangular shape that resembles a bale of hay. In the 2nd sorting room, employees repeat the process, but with plastic, glass, and metal. As for plastics, they're divided into several categories. Speaking of plastic, have you ever noticed that there are often little arrows under plastic containers? These arrows represent a recycling symbol, and in the centre of each arrow is a number, which corresponds to a particular category or type of plastic. For recovery and recycling purposes, plastics are divided into 7 categories.

At the recycling facility, metal and glass containers must also be separated. All steel (or ferrous) containers, such as cans, are automatically drawn by the magnet. Other non-ferrous metal containers, such as soda cans and pie plates, aren't drawn by the magnet, but are sorted a little further down by Eddy current. Glass containers, meanwhile, are divided into two- or three-colour categories, depending on the recycling facility.

Before leaving us, Mr. Genest explained that sorting can be done in different ways, from one recycling facility to another. He also told us that if we had any questions about recycling, all we had to do was contact our municipality's waste collection service.

My mother listened carefully to our new neighbour. She was very surprised to learn that everything that goes into the recycling bin is sorted by hand. She now understands why we have to rinse our containers before putting them in the bin. Imagine the bad smells we'd get at home, and at the recycling facilities if we put soiled containers in the bin.

After the Genest family left, we all went to check the content of our recycling bin. My father removed the paint container since paint is hazardous waste. As for me, I removed the old video cassette, which is made of plastic, since it has no recycling symbol and is made of several materials. My sister Maude removed all the lids from the glass containers for the same reason. In the end, there were only a few mistakes in our bin.

Activity 2 – Reading comprehension & Exercise – Bin Champion

We were very proud of ourselves! Our cardboard boxes are always neatly folded to take up as little space as possible. My mother never forgets to remove the advertisements in the plastic bags that cannot be recycled in our region. She also prefers to buy milk or juice in recyclable plastic containers, even though multi-layer containers are recycled in our region.

As you can see, we mastered our bins!

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TEXT

1. Where does Mr. Genest unload the contents of his truck?

2. How is sorting done at the recycling facility?

3. How many categories are plastics divided into, for them to be recycled?

4. Why must containers be rinsed before being recycled?








5. Why do cardboard boxes need to be folded before they're recycled?

EXERCISE

Find in your home at least ten of the fifteen items listed here. If you can't find these items, you'll have to go to the next grocery store with your family. Next, you need to indicate which number surrounded by arrows appears under the plastic container. Just make an «X» in the right place.

Items to find	 PETE	 HDPE	 V	 LDPE	 PP	 PS	 Others	None
Kraft Peanut Butter (1 kg)								
Silhouette Yogurt (650 grams)								
Tray of ground beef								
Dishwashing Liquid <i>Sunlight</i>								
French's Mustard								
Windex glass cleaner								
Yop Drinkable Yogurt								
Heinz Ketchup (1 liter)								



Items to find	 1 PETE	 2 HDPE	 3 V	 4 LDPE	 5 pp	 6 PS	 7 Others	None
Minigo yogurt								
Bovril Liquid Beef Broth								
Nesquik Chocolate Syrup								
Head & Shoulders Shampoo								
Kraft French Salad Dressing								
Jell-O Instant Pudding								
Mott's Applesauce								

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