



## Should I Recycle This?

**Read the passage to determine the author's claims and reasons and evidence to support them. Circle the author's claim and underline the supporting reasons.**

Recycling is important in order to save Earth's natural resources and the environment. When we recycle, we save trees and help decrease the negative impact we make. There are many things we can do to help the environment and it begins with recycling. Some say that it is expensive and wasteful to recycle but there are large and small things you can do in order to help strengthen the environment.

The dent that we put in Earth's natural resources is called the carbon footprint. When we recycle, we reduce our carbon footprint. We decrease the amount of new materials needed to make the goods society needs. When we reuse materials, the amount of energy and resources used in the manufacturing process is also decreased. Waste can take hundreds of years to decompose when it sits in landfills, so that waste we create should be recycled instead.

When we recycle things like paper, plastic, glass, and metal, we help our planet by stretching our natural resources. Many natural resources are nonrenewable, which means that more will not be made when we run out of them. With recycling, we do not have to use natural resources as much and as fast as we normally would. A positive example of recycling is a bottle of water that was made from 100% recycled materials. This means that no new plastic was used in order to make that bottle of water. Pollution and the use of new materials was reduced simply by recycling.

There are many things we can do to help our environment stay healthy and strong. By increasing your awareness of recycling and understanding its importance to the Earth, you are one step closer to being a better recycler.

### Questions

1. What is the main claim the author is making?

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2. What reasons does the author give to support the claim?

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