

RECYCLABLE PLASTICS

STUDENT BOOK Chapter 12, page 381

GOAL

Identify the types of plastic that go into the composition of various objects by studying their recycling code.

OBSERVATION CRITERIA

1. What is plastic ?







2. Match each category of plastic below to its appropriate description:

a) plastics that soften when heated
and harden when cooled

b) plastics that harden permanently
under the effect of an energy source

3. Complete the table below with the following information:

- the name of plastics that are currently recyclable
- the letters usually found below the recycling code symbol on these plastics

Type of plastic	Recycling code
	 _____
	 _____  _____
	 _____
	 _____
	 _____

4. Will a plastic that displays a recycling code be recycled automatically if it is placed into a recycling bin ? Explain your answer.



MATERIALS

- 10 objects made of recyclable plastic

PROCEDURE

1. Observe each plastic object and determine what it is used for.
2. On each object, find the number and letters of its recycling code.

OBSERVATIONS

Record your observations in the table below. Give the table a title.

Title: _____

		Recycling code	
Object	Utility of object	Number	Letters
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

REFLECTING ON YOUR OBSERVATIONS

1. Based on your observations, indicate the type of plastic that makes up each object observed in this lab.

Object	Type of plastic	Object	Type of plastic
1		6	
2		7	
3		8	
4		9	
5		10	



2. Exchange results with your classmates.

a) Which recyclable plastics did you find the least often among the objects observed ?

b) Which recyclable plastic used for food packaging and grocery bags did you find most often among the objects observed ?

c) Which recyclable plastic used for hot drinks was found among the objects observed ?

3. Do all plastic objects have a recycling code ? If not, how can you tell which plastic was used in manufacturing an object ?
