

Your Recycled House



Imagine you are building a new house but you are not using *any* new material. A house like this would use construction material like wood, glass and metal from other places. By using old material, you are reusing and recycling material that already exists. This house would be really different from houses built with new construction material but it would be just as comfortable. If you build your house like this, you are building a house that is friendly to the environment, or eco-friendly.

To reuse material is to find a new place and use for material no one uses anymore. These other places could be old houses being torn down, construction sites and recycling centers like junkyards and scrap yards. It can be as simple as buying a used bathtub and putting it in the new house. Or it can be more complicated, like using the metal from old umbrellas to make lighting fixtures. Using your imagination you can recycle a lot of different things for different uses.

Houses are torn down every day. Find a house before it's torn down and get whatever wood you can for the frame of your new house. You could reuse doors

and floors from this old house. Even if the house is already torn down, maybe there are many pieces of broken mirrors. You could glue them together to make a different, yet pretty mirror.

If you live near a beach, you can find driftwood and use it for decoration or the railing of your porch. If you live near farms, you can reuse an old grain silo. A tall grain silo gives you a second floor! If you live near a shipping port, you may find old shipping containers that can make a great existing structure. They already come with four walls and a ceiling. You can then find wooden shipping crates to lay a new floor inside your shipping container.

You can stack old tires from a junkyard to make a wall. Another wall could be made out of used glass bottles. A wall made of glass bottles lets light pass through and can be very pretty. Other walls can be made out of scrap metal found in scrap yards. They would be shiny and look very different from your tire and glass wall.

Can you imagine your eco-friendly house yet? Make sure you think about what kind of house you want and plan it well. Find the right type and amount of construction material. Also, make sure your construction material is clean and safe for reuse. If you don't plan your house well, you may feel like your house looks more like trash than like your new home!

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What does it mean to *reuse* material?

- A throw away old material
- B use new material that is built from scratch
- C find a new place and use for material that is already being used
- D find a new place and use for material no one uses anymore

2. What does the author describe in the passage?

- A different ways old material can be used to build a new house
- B different ways new material can be used to build a new house
- C how new houses can be designed
- D how construction sites and recycling centers are organized

3. Different structures can be used to build a house, such as a grain silo or an old shipping container. Based on this evidence, what conclusion can be made?

- A Shipping containers should only be used to build a house if no other structures can be found.
- B Recycled houses don't have to be built from scratch using old materials.
- C Recycled houses can't be built by using old materials only.
- D The material for a recycled house has to come from a shipping port.

4. Why is a recycled house eco-friendly?

- A because a recycled house limits the amount of old material used to build the house
- B because a recycled house limits the amount of new material used to build the house
- C because a recycled house is most likely surrounded by trees
- D because a recycled house provides new uses for old shipping containers

5. What is the passage mainly about?

- A the role of junkyards in society today
- B popular construction materials used to build houses
- C different ways a house can be built with recycled materials
- D the environmental benefits of building recycled houses

6. Read the following sentence: "If you live near a beach, you can find driftwood and use it for decoration or the railing of your porch. If you live near farms, you can reuse an old grain silo. A tall grain silo gives you a second floor! If you live near a shipping port, you may find old shipping containers that can make a great existing **structure**. They already come with four walls and a ceiling."

As used in the passage, what does the word "**structure**" most nearly mean?

- A something made of parts connected together in an ordered way
- B something that does not have any organization or order
- C something that can only be found near a shipping port
- D a material used to build walls and ceilings

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Recycled houses take advantage of recycled and reused materials _____ tires, glass bottles, old mirrors, and more.

- A certainly
- B however
- C previously
- D such as

8. How do recycled houses compare with houses built with new construction materials?

9. What are some materials that are commonly used to build recycled houses?

10. The author states, "Using your imagination you can recycle a lot of different things for different uses." Use information from the passage to support this statement.

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 940

1. What does it mean to *reuse* material?

- A throw away old material
- B use new material that is built from scratch
- C find a new place and use for material that is already being used
- D **find a new place and use for material no one uses anymore**

2. What does the author describe in the passage?

- A **different ways old material can be used to build a new house**
- B different ways new material can be used to build a new house
- C how new houses can be designed
- D how construction sites and recycling centers are organized

3. Different structures can be used to build a house, such as a grain silo or an old shipping container. Based on this evidence, what conclusion can be made?

- A Shipping containers should only be used to build a house if no other structures can be found.
- B **Recycled houses don't have to be built from scratch using old materials.**
- C Recycled houses can't be built by using old materials only.
- D The material for a recycled house has to come from a shipping port.

4. Why is a recycled house eco-friendly?

- A because a recycled house limits the amount of old material used to build the house
- B **because a recycled house limits the amount of new material used to build the house**
- C because a recycled house is most likely surrounded by trees
- D because a recycled house provides new uses for old shipping containers

5. What is the passage mainly about?

- A the role of junkyards in society today
- B popular construction materials used to build houses
- C **different ways a house can be built with recycled materials**
- D the environmental benefits of building recycled houses

6. Read the following sentence: "If you live near a beach, you can find driftwood and use it for decoration or the railing of your porch. If you live near farms, you can reuse an old grain silo. A tall grain silo gives you a second floor! If you live near a shipping port, you may find old shipping containers that can make a great existing **structure**. They already come with four walls and a ceiling."

As used in the passage, what does the word "**structure**" most nearly mean?

- A something made of parts connected together in an ordered way
- B something that does not have any organization or order
- C something that can only be found near a shipping port
- D a material used to build walls and ceilings

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Recycled houses take advantage of recycled and reused materials _____ tires, glass bottles, old mirrors, and more.

- A certainly
- B however
- C previously
- D such as

8. How do recycled houses compare with houses built with new construction materials?

Suggested answer: Recycled houses are constructed with old, reused materials instead of brand new ones. Students may also note that recycled houses may be more eco-friendly yet just as comfortable as houses built with new construction materials.

9. What are some materials that are commonly used to build recycled houses?

Suggested answer: Students could list any of the types of materials listed by the author, including old metal, doors, mirrors, driftwood, tires, glass bottles, and more.

10. The author states, "Using your imagination you can recycle a lot of different things for different uses." Use information from the passage to support this statement.

Suggested answer: Students should indicate that recycled materials can be used in a new place and for a new purpose when building a recycled home. They may cite one of the various examples from the passage to illustrate this idea, such as driftwood being used for decoration or for the construction of the railing of the house's porch.