

# What kind of plastic is it?

You will learn:

- What kinds of plastic items you have in your home
- What kinds of plastic items you can recycle

## Graph 1—What’s your stuff made of?

### LEARN:

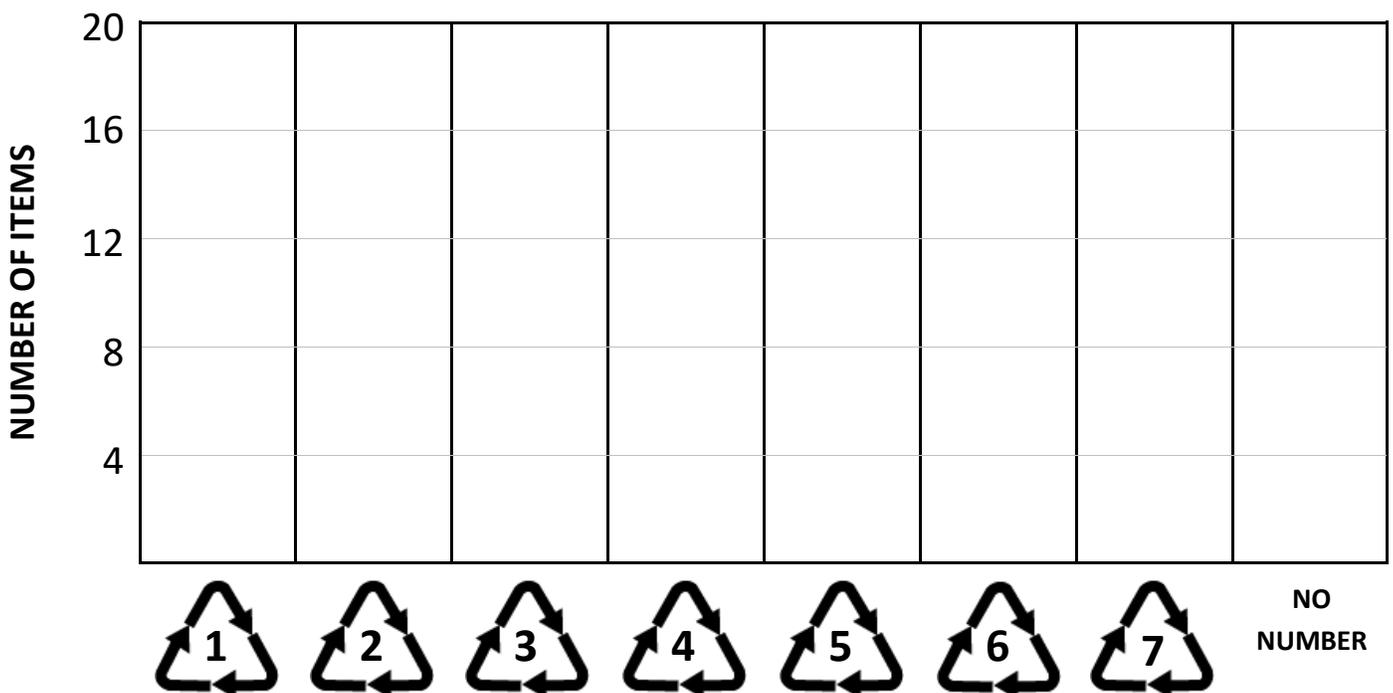
Plastic is made from fossil fuels, but not all plastic is made the same way. To identify what type of plastic something is made from, most plastic items are numbered. The numbers correspond to a specific type of plastic and range 1 through 7.

### GRAPH:

1. Find at least 20 different things in your house that are made of plastic. Good places to look are your kitchen, bathroom, laundry room, or bedroom.
2. For each item, look for the recycling symbol to find what number plastic it is. The number will be inside the recycling symbol.
3. For each item, mark a tally in the chart below by the corresponding number. If the item is not numbered, mark a tally in your space for not numbered.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	No Number

4. Once you have tallied all your plastic items, graph your results below.



## Graph 2—Can You Recycle It?

### LEARN:

Recycling is the process of breaking down a used item like paper, cardboard, metal, or plastic into raw materials that are used to make new items. For something to be recycled, it also has to be a material that someone wants to buy to make something new.

Even though all these different plastics have a recycling symbol on them, not all of them can be recycled. There are lots of plastics that nobody wants to buy, which means they cannot be recycled and if they cannot be recycled or reused, they are just trash.

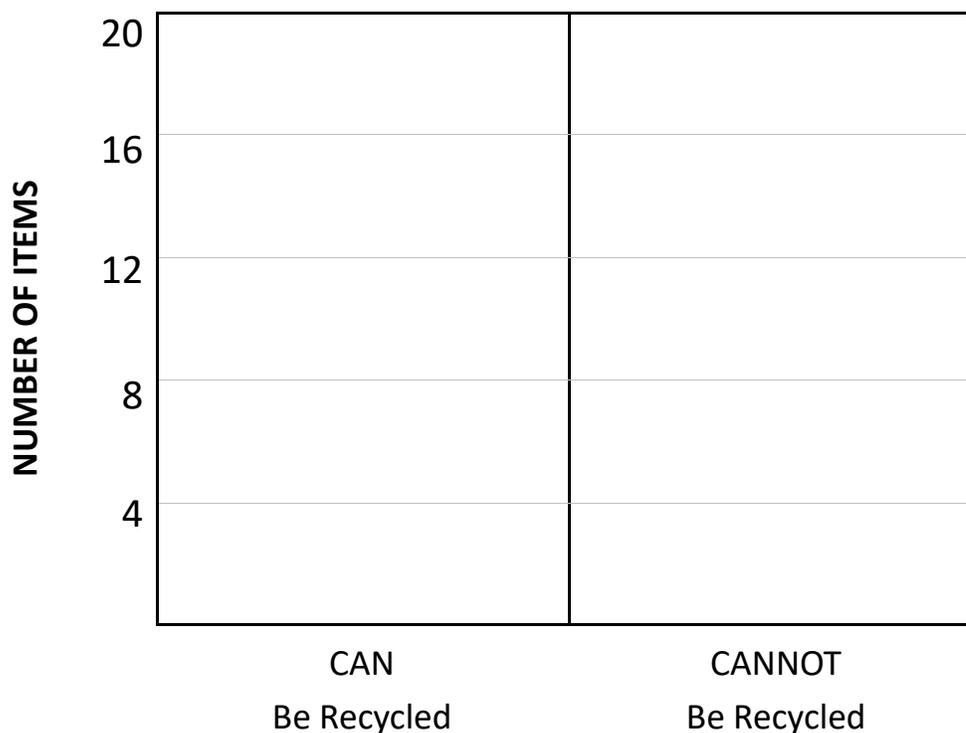
**In Nashville, you can recycle plastic bottles, plastic jars, and plastic jugs with a number 1 or a number 2 on them.** Some stores offer recycling for other items like plastic bags, but these items cannot be recycled at home or at school.

### GRAPH:

- Using the same plastic items you used for Graph 1, determine if each item CAN or CANNOT be recycled in Nashville's recycling program. If it is a plastic bottle, plastic jar, or plastic jug with a number 1 or a number 2 on it, it CAN be recycled. Everything else CANNOT be recycled.

CAN Be Recycled	CANNOT Be Recycled

- For each item, mark a tally in the corresponding column.
- Once you have tallied all your plastic items, use the graph below to graph your results.



## Questions?

1. What did you learn about the plastic items you use at home?

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2. What might you do differently now that you know not all plastic items can be recycled?

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### Activity 1—Make A Poster

Make a poster for your recycling bin to illustrate what plastic items you CAN and CANNOT put in your recycling bin. Get extra creative by reusing materials that would end up in the trash to make your poster.

### Activity 2—Fill In The Chart

The chart on the next page shows common items for each type of plastic. Write or draw in each column to add the items you found at home.

# What kind of plastic is it?

The chart below shows common items for each kind of plastic. What else did you find in each category?

 <b>PET/PETE</b> Polyethylene Ter- ephthalate	 <b>HDPE</b> High Density Poly- ethylene	 <b>PVC</b> Polyvinyl Chloride	 <b>LDPE</b> Low Density Poly- ethylene	 <b>PP</b> Polypropylene	 <b>PS</b> Polystyrene	 <b>OTHER</b>
 	  		 	 	 	