

HOW TO HELP



Sometimes an old cell phone is beyond repair. But those in working condition can still be put to good use.

HIGH-TECH TRASH, PAGE 64 **E-cycling Etiquette**

Americans toss out about two million tons of unwanted electronics annually, fouling landfills with toxic lead from old computer monitors, cadmium from leaking batteries, and more. But it's getting easier to discard responsibly. Some charities repurpose old cell phones as lifelines for seniors and victims of domestic violence, and computers can go to underfunded schools. Reputable recyclers will properly scrap unusable electronics, though they sometimes charge a small fee. Donating newer models, on the other hand, can earn a tax deduction, so keeping old gadgets from gathering dust helps you and the environment. For more information on charities and recyclers, go to epa.gov/ecycling.

■ **Cell phones** Find donation bins at electronics stores and libraries. Wireless carriers also accept used phones. For options visit recyclewirelessphones.com.

■ **Computers** Most makers accept their brand from customers buying new ones. Some office supply store chains accept old computers for a fee. The National Cristina Foundation connects computer donors with the needy. Go to cristina.org.

■ **Batteries** Often retail stores selling rechargeable batteries will accept used ones, including small sealed lead-acid batteries from power backups. See call2recycle.org for locations.

■ **Printer supplies** Spent toner cartridges are valuable; trade them in for discounts or refill them at retail stores. Collecting used ones for recycling can even be a profitable fund-raiser for groups.

About the worksheet:

This is an example of how you might adapt an article from a magazine or website for students. This particular article came from National Geographic and was in an issue that dealt largely with how these electronics get discarded or dumped on communities in developing countries.

Discussion

Give the discussion topic of old electronics. You might want to preview with a few easy questions but don't force students to stick to that particular pattern. They should be free to make their own conversations.

EX: Ok guys today we are going to talk about old electronics, buying them, donating them, selling them. Any kind of gadgets you can think of like phones, computers, music players.

Give students time to discuss, listen and correct.

Listening

Read part of the article to the students. Depending on their level there may be some new words. Be ready to explain them quickly and with examples.

Key vocabulary:

e-cycling - recycling electronics

etiquette - proper behavior

fouling - making something gross, disgusting or poisoned

repurpose - use a different way

underfunded - not enough money

reputable - having a good reputation

gadgets - electronic devices

tax deduction - a lowered

One nice option is to have students tap the desk or table when they hear an unfamiliar word so you can go over it right away.

Check comprehension with a few questions.

Follow up conversation

Have students switch partners and discuss some of the ideas found in the article.

