

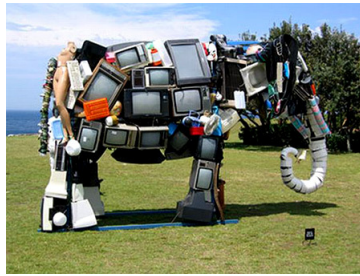
# The Environment: the air, water, and land we use

## Welcome to Talk Time!

How are you? What did you do during the winter storm? Did you celebrate Thanksgiving?

## Let's get started

**Discuss as a group:** Look at the pictures. What materials are the items made of?



In America, we use three ideas to help the environment: reduce, reuse, and recycle. Which idea do the pictures show?

## Read the story together.

Colin Beavan lives in a small apartment in New York City with his wife and daughter. He likes to write about how to help the environment. Recently, he became very popular. People now call him “No Impact Man” because he works hard to reduce the impact on the environment. For one year, Colin and his family changed the way they live. They produced no trash. They traveled only by foot or bike. They did not watch any TV. They did not buy anything new or anything with plastic packaging. They only bought food grown at local farms. They made their own cleaning products and hygiene products. During this year, they helped the environment, and they felt healthier and happier. Read his blog at <http://noimpactman.typepad.com/blog/>.

**Discuss in pairs for 5 minutes. Then, share something from your conversation with the group.**

- 1) Do you think reducing impact on the environment is important? Why or why not?
- 2) Could you live like the Beavan family (no TV, no driving, no shopping)? Explain.
- 3) What can we do each day to reduce impact on the environment? Make a list.
  - Bring reusable bags to the grocery store.
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**Discussion**

**Discuss questions as a group.**

Do you and your family separate your trash into “garbage” and “recycling”? Explain.

How do you know if you can recycle something? What items cannot be recycled?

Do you think recycling is confusing? Do you have any ideas to improve recycling? What are they?

Do people recycle in your native country? How is recycling in your native country different than recycling in America?

Do you like to shop at consignment stores or thrift stores? Explain.

Do you like to buy new items or used items? What items are good to buy used? What items are good to buy new?

Which part of the environment do you feel is in the most danger? Why?

- Air
- Water
- Animals
- Plants and trees

What do you think that governments should do to help solve problems with the environment?  
What do you think individual people should do?

Does your native country have any problems with air or water pollution? Explain.

What types of laws in your country protect the environment? Give examples.

Have there been any changes in the environment in your native country in the last 20 years? Is the air cleaner or more polluted? Is the water cleaner or more polluted?

**\*\*Discuss in partners for 5 minutes:** How can you reuse these things? Be creative!

Plastic yogurt container  
Plastic/Paper shopping bag  
Old clothes  
Newspapers  
Glass jars  
Paper  
Cardboard boxes



**\*\*Share your ideas with the group.**

**Reflect as a group:** What did you learn today? What did you learn about yourself or someone in the group? What do you want to talk about next week?

