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 and metal from other places. By using old material, you are reusing and recycling material that already exists. If you build your house like this, you are building a house in a way that is friendly to the environment, or eco-friendly.

To reuse material is to use it again; to recycle material is to reuse it, or to find a new use for it. You could get materials to reuse or recycle from old houses being torn down, construction sites, recycling centers, junkyards, and scrap yards. Reusing and recycling 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. By using your imagination, you can recycle a lot of different things for different uses.

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.

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. You can use the bare sides and top as walls and a ceiling. You can then

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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 scrap metal found in scrap yards. The scrap-metal wall would be shiny and look very different from your tire 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 eco-friendly house well, you may feel like your house looks more like trash!

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Name: _____ **Date:** _____

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By ReadWorks

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

A) to throw away old material
B) to find new material to build something
C) to create new material to build something
D) to reuse or find a new use for material

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. Eco-friendly means friendly to the environment. Why is using recycled material to build a house an eco-friendly way to build a house?

A) because it increases the amount of new material used to build the house
B) because it lessens the amount of new material used to build the house
C) because it leads to the use of more trees and wood to build the house
D) because it provides new uses for old shipping containers

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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 sentences from the text.
"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 and metal from other places. By using old material, you are reusing and recycling material that already exists. If you build your house like this, you are building a house in a way that is friendly to the environment, or eco-friendly."

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

A) anything used to build or make something else
B) a tool used to take something apart
C) anything that has to be created from scratch
D) anything that is friendly to the environment

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.
Recycled houses take advantage of recycled and reused materials _____ tires, old metal, wood, and more.

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

8. Based on the text, what is one place where you could get materials to use for your recycled house?

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9. According to the text, what are three materials you could use to build a recycled house?

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

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