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Section 1: Reading Skills

Pass It On

Today we may think that the idea of recycling is somewhat new, but it is not. Canadians have been recycling for years. Early settlers were expert recyclers. They knew it was easier and cheaper to make things out of old materials. They were not always able to buy or make something new.

Clothing was always recycled. In early times, clothes were made from old curtains or flour sacks. Coats, hats, dresses, shirts and pants were handed down from older children to younger brothers and sisters. Sometimes old clothes were too small to fit anyone in the family. Other clothes had too many holes to be used. These items were used to make new things.

For example:

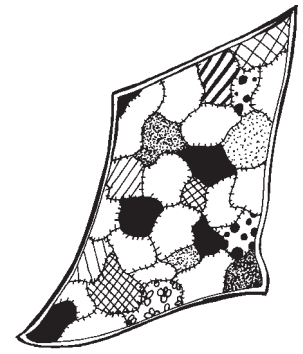
- If a sweater was worn out, it was unravelled. Then the yarn was used to knit socks, mittens and scarves.
- Material from old clothes was used to patch torn dresses, shirts and pants. Buttons were cut off and kept in a jar or box until they were needed.
- Old clothes were woven into colourful rugs. The clothes were torn into strips. The ends of the strips were sewn together. The long strips were rolled into a ball. When there were enough balls of strips, the weaving began. Sometimes the strips were braided, coiled or sewn into the shape of a rug.
- Many people also made their own quilts. Old clothing was cut into shapes and sewn together. Pieces of fabric from new clothes were always kept and used in quilt making. Several women would work on a quilt at one time so it could be finished sooner.

In these early times, people did not have much money. They used and reused everything they could. Nothing was wasted. They were taking the first steps in saving our environment.





Pass It On



A. Word Power

1. Match these words from the story to their meanings.
Write the number of the word in front of the correct meaning.

Word	#	Meaning
a) braided		To undo yarn that has been knit into something.
b) coiled		A person who knows a great deal about something.
c) expert		Making something ready to be reused.
d) quilt		Wound in rings or a spiral.
e) recycling		A bedcovering that is stuffed with soft material.
f) unravelled		Making a strip by weaving together three or more pieces (of cloth).

2. Nouns

A **common** noun names a person, place, thing or animal.

A **proper** noun names a specific person, place, thing or animal. It always begins with a capital.

Write the nouns under the proper heading.

Nouns		Common Nouns	Proper Nouns
Canada	Ontario		
Canadians	Quebec		
children	quilts		
curtains	sweater		





Pass It On



B. Understanding the Story

We read a story carefully to understand the words and the ideas.
If we want to find answers quickly, we can **skim** the story.
To **skim** a story means to **glance through** it to find details or facts.

1. **Skim** the story "Pass It On" to find the answers to these questions.
Write one or more words on the blanks.
 - a) What item was always recycled? _____
 - b) Name two things that were used to make clothes. _____
 - c) What was done with worn out sweaters? _____
 - d) What did people do with the strips of cloth? _____
 - e) Why did several women work on one quilt at a time? _____

2. Why do you think the early settlers recycled as much as they could?

3. Do people recycle clothing today? Give an example to prove your answer.

4. Name three things that your family recycles.



Pass It On

C. Using Your Ideas


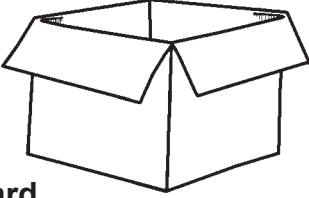
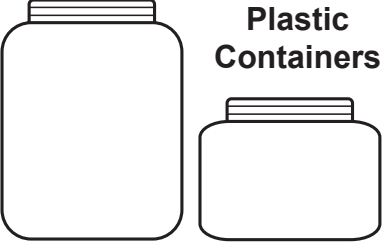
In the story, we read about how early settlers recycled clothing.

There are many things in our environment that we could recycle to use in our homes.

Look at the list of items on the chart.

Think of a **new use** for each item. The new use should be a way that it can be used in your home.

Draw a picture to illustrate your answer.

Item to Be Recycled	My idea for a Way to Use This Item in My Home	Illustration Showing the New Use for the Item
<p>Empty Glass Jar</p> 		
<p>Cardboard Box</p> 		
<p>Plastic Containers</p> 		
<p>Clothing</p> 