**The Facts about Plastics:**

**What are plastics?**

**Plastics are durable, lightweight synthetic materials that are made from compounds found in oil and natural gas.** They are used in cars, computers, toys and packaging for items.

**Can you recycle plastics?**

**Most plastics can be recycled and different kinds of plastics have symbols and codes on them.** Some plastics are not accepted by cerain recycling programs(often those with a higher code number).

**What happens to a plastic bottle when it gets recycled?**

A plastic bottle is shred into tiny flakes, cleaned, filtered and melted to create long strips that are then cut into pellets. **These pellets are then used to make other products such as clothing or pillows.**

**Why recyle?**

**By using recycled plastics** to make products instead of new resources, a lot of **money can be saved by companies and resources can be saved.**

**Why do I have to clean plastics before recycling?**

**Removing** **contaminants**(paper wrappers, sand, residue from ketchup or juice) help **to ensure that the new pellets created from recycling are of the best quality** so as not to be wasted.

**Recycling symbol Example After recycling**

**1 pop bottles t-shirts, pillows**

**2 milk jugs lumber, boxes**

**3 siding, doors drain pipes**

**4 grocery bags playground sets**

**5 ketchup bottles ice scrapers**

**6 foam coffee cups plastic cases**

**7 safety glasses picnic tables**

**Activity 1:**

**Read the chart above. Which of these items do you think are recycled most often? Why do you think so? What can we do to reuse items that are not easily recyled? Discuss your ideas with a family member.**

**This week, observe how many of these items you recyle or reuse. Do you think you might be able to reduce the amount of items needing to be recycled in your home? Write down one thing you can do to reduce items needing to be recycled or thrown away.(Example: Using a reusable water bottle means less plastic bottles having to be recycled.)**

**Activity 2: Recyling Code Numbers-**Try to match as many of the items in the picture below with its recycling code number. You may need to locate some of these items around the house and look for the code number on the item(usually on the bottom of the object). Now, choose three items and research what new product it can be used to make after recycling.

