

**PART 1: Where does plastic come from?**


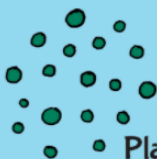


Have you ever wondered how plastic becomes plastic? Let's find out by learning about the Plastic Cycle. The Plastic Cycle is how plastic products are made.

- Where do you think plastic comes from? Is it a naturally occurring material or something that is made from a natural resource found on Earth?

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- Have a look at the four pictures below. They represent the four main steps of how the plastic is made. Can you guess the right order? Which one is the first step? And the second? The third? And the fourth? Write the correct number in the box underneath.

 <p>Plastic product sold in stores</p>	 <p>Plastic pellet production</p>	 <p>Plastic product made in factory</p>	 <p>Raw material (oil)</p>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**PART 2: Become a Waste Wizard**

What happens to plastic products and other items when we're done using them? How do we know where they should go?

- What do you think happens after plastic products are used by people? Do they get used again? Thrown away? Sent to be recycled?

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- When you have something to throw away, how do you know which of these main 3 waste bins it goes into?

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- It's time to play the Waste Wizard game! Have a look at the waste items in front of you and write down your thoughts about which bin each of them goes into.

Garbage bin	Recycling bin	Compost bin

**PART 3: Circular and Linear Economies**

Now that waste items have been placed into the correct bin, what happens next?

- What do you think happens after waste items have been placed in the garbage bin? What about the recycling bin?

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- What do you think the word landfill means? Do you think products sent to a landfill can ever be used again?

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- In a linear economy, old plastic products aren't used again to make new plastic products. Do you think this means that more or less natural resources (raw materials) are taken from the environment to create new products? Is this a sustainable option? Think about the steps from the plastic cycle you learned about earlier.

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- In a circular economy, old plastic products are used again to make new plastic products. Do you think this means that more or less natural resources (raw materials) are taken from the environment to create new products? Is this a sustainable option? Think about the steps from the plastic cycle you learned about earlier.

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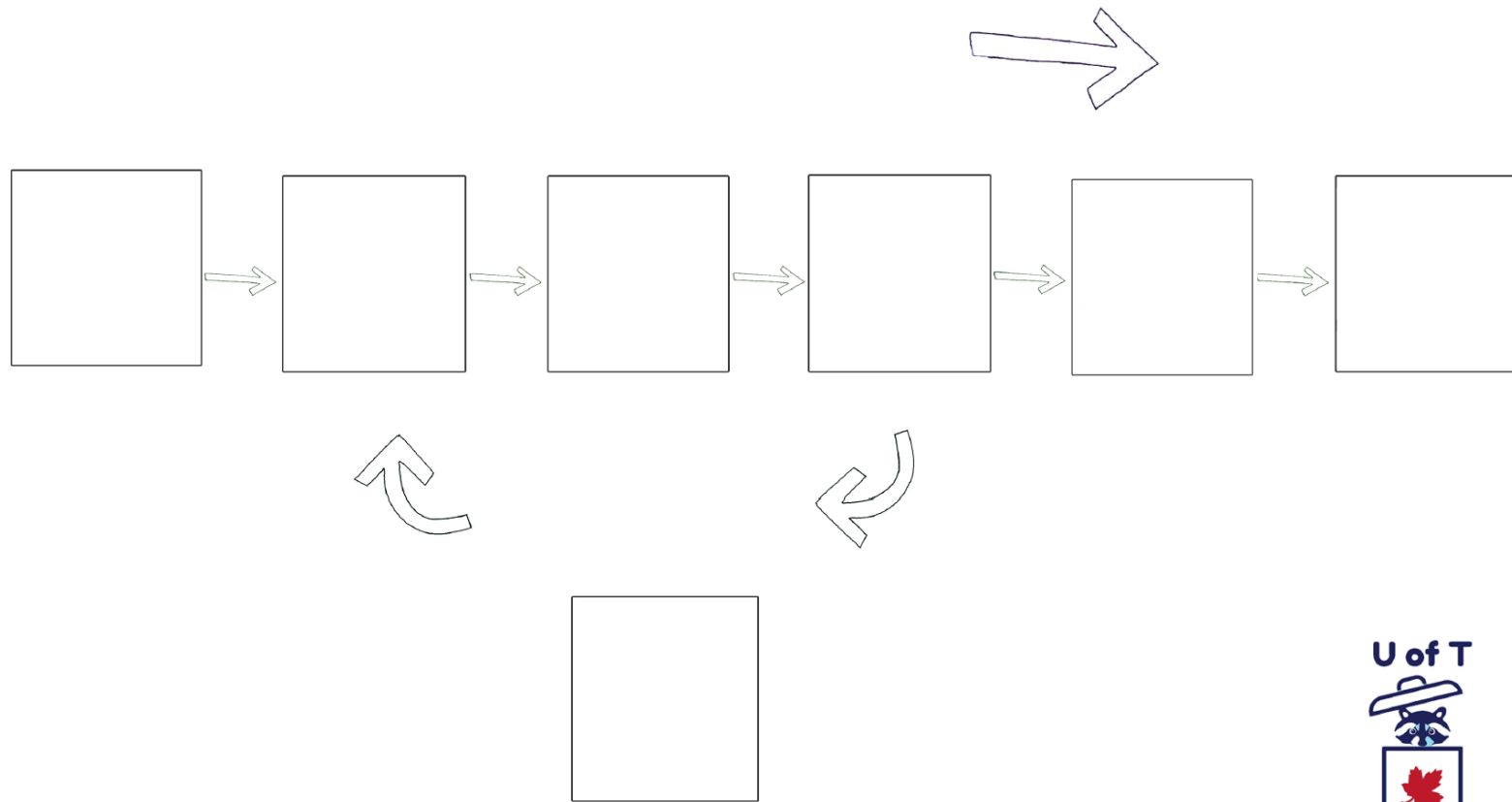
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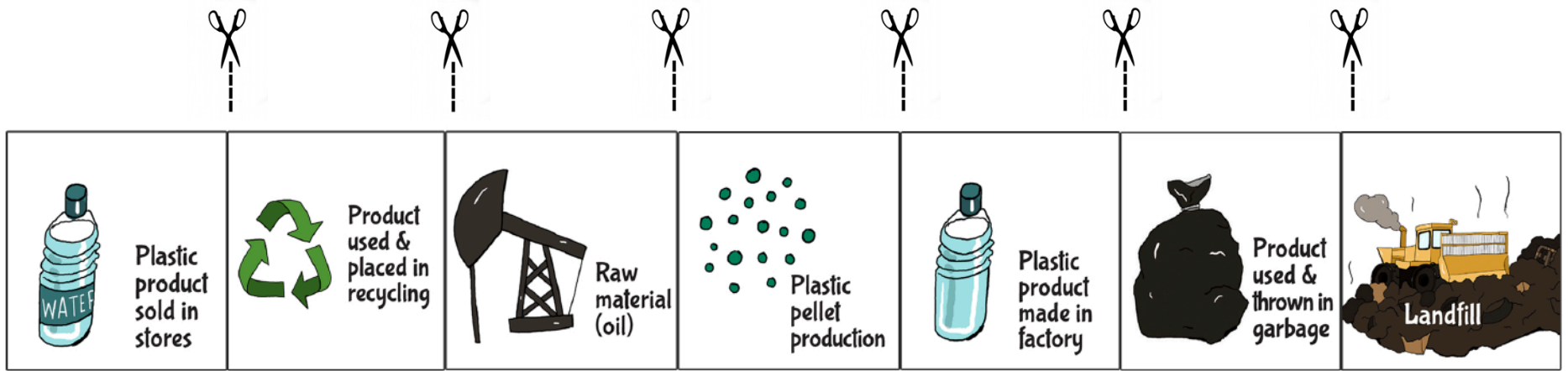
Now, let's put your knowledge about Linear Economies and Circular Economies to the test with a 'Fill in the Blank' game, found on the next page.

**Fill in the Blanks Game:** Guess the correct order of steps to show the difference between a linear economy and a circular economy. Cut out the game pieces on the next page (or ask an adult for help) then place them where you think they fit best.

# Plastic Cycle



**Fill in the Blanks Game:** Cut out each of the 7 squares below, as well as the words “Circular Economy” and “Linear Economy”. You should now have 9 game pieces to use to fill in the blanks on page 4 of this worksheet.



Circular Economy

Linear Economy



**Final reflection:** Let's wrap up and reflect back on what we learned!

**Did you know?** Canadians throw away over 3 million tonnes of plastic waste every year and only 9% is recycled? The rest end up in a combination of landfill, waste-to-energy facilities, or back into the environment. While recycling is important to a circular economy, it's important to reduce what we use as much as possible so we can also reduce what potentially ends up in the landfill.

- **What natural resource found on earth is used in the production of plastic?**

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- **What were some of the main differences between a linear economy and a circular economy?**

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- **When you are finished using a plastic product, what are some ways we can use them for longer and reduce waste instead of placing them in the garbage or recycling? Share your ideas.**

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