You—yes you!—play an important part in the papermaking process, and that’s why we need your help.

Make sure cardboard boxes end up in the recycling bin instead of the trash can. It’s easy! Then, spread the word to your family, friends, classmates, and members of your community about the importance of recycling to help make new products.

Make a big difference in three small steps:

1. **Remove** Make sure cardboard boxes are clean and dry by removing non-paper packing materials (foam peanuts, etc.) and food (pizza crusts, etc.).

2. **Recycle** Put cardboard boxes in your recycling bin. If your bin is too small for all the boxes, break them down flat, or rip them up to make them fit.

3. **Reuse** One way to reuse cardboard boxes is to ship items to friends and family. Amazon suggests reusing their shipping boxes to make donations and will provide free shipping labels to send these “Give Back Boxes” to partner organizations: https://givebackbox.com/amazon

The national cardboard recovery rate is 88.8% (source: www.paperrecycles.org).
Capture All Cardboard!

In this game, you'll help your family reuse and recycle the cardboard boxes that arrive at your house. The goal is to reuse or recycle all of your boxes every month. For every month your family reaches 90% or higher, treat yourselves with a family adventure that celebrates sustainability, such as taking a hike in a forest preserve.

Chart Your Progress

Use this sample chart to keep track of your boxes. At the end of each month, calculate the total percentage of boxes you recycled or reused. In this example, 11 of the 12 boxes were used or 11/12, which equals .92 (divide 11 by 12) or 92% (multiply by 100).

Example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Total Cardboard Shipping Boxes</th>
<th>Recycled</th>
<th>Reused</th>
<th>Total Boxes Not Reused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rise to the Cardboard Challenge

Recycle

Put cardboard boxes in your recycling bin. Break down or rip up any boxes that are too big.

Reuse

Tidy Up

1. Ask your family which items most need to be organized in the house (shoes, magazines, etc.).
2. Use colored pencils and markers to decorate the boxes you’ve collected for storing each item.

Design a Set

1. Imagine a play or movie set you could create with boxes—perhaps a planet where robots will battle.
2. Build the set using the boxes you’ve collected.
3. Act out a play or make a movie (get your parents’ help with recording).

Build With Boxes

1. Brainstorm a BIG idea to build, such as a fort, skyscraper, or mini-city.
2. Collect cardboard boxes, shoe or tissue boxes, and cartons.
3. Lead a family Building With Boxes Day to turn your vision into reality.