

## CVWMA Decomposition Match Up

When you throw something away where does it go? What happens to it when it's gone? Match the CVWMA recyclable materials with how long it takes them to decompose in landfill. Then match the items to what they could become if they were recycled!

Decomposition  
Time

Recyclable Item

If recycled, it can  
become...

More than  
400 years



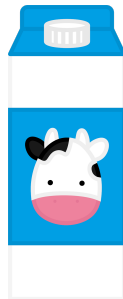
Bikes,  
Car Parts  
or  
Appliances

5 Years



Glass  
Containers

2 Months  
to  
10 years



Tissue,  
Office Paper,  
and  
Building  
Materials

50 Years



Clothing,  
Shoes, and  
Building  
Materials.

Does  
not  
Decompose?



Paper,  
Egg cartons,  
and Building  
Materials.



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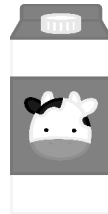
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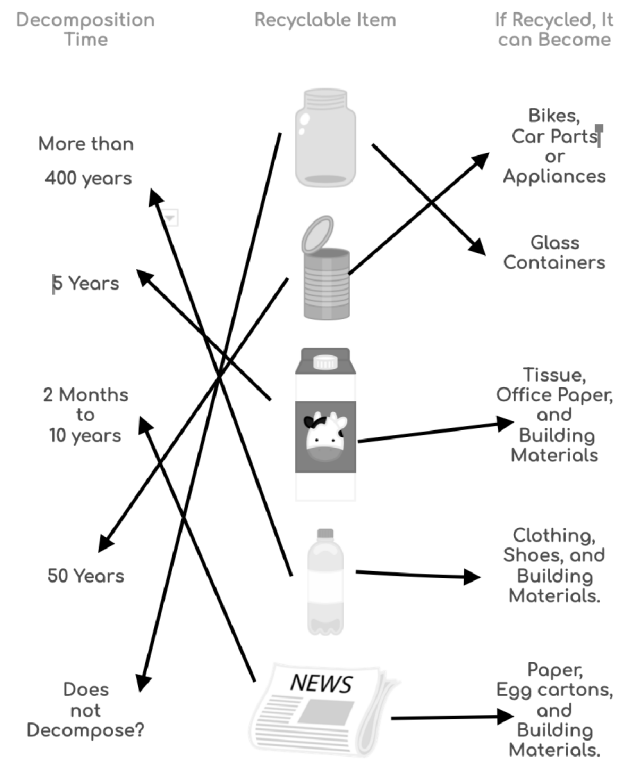


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## ANSWER KEY

Glass Jar	Does not decompose/ Glass Container
Tin Can	50 Years/ Bikes, Car Parts or Appliances
Milk Carton	5 Years/Tissue, Office Paper and Building Material
Water Bottle	More than 400 years/ Clothing, Shoes and Building Materials
Newspaper	Paper, Egg cartons and Building Materials



## Teacher Notes

**Notes:** Everything in this matching game can be recycled in CVWMA recycling programs. The most important thing to stress to students is that they can only be recycled IF they are not contaminated. Food, trash, dirt, and plastic bags can cause recyclable goods to be contaminated. If contaminated, the item will be thrown into the landfill. Decomposition rates in landfills are longer than natural decomposition time. Plastic bags and clear film can be recycled, but not with CVWMA. There are special receptacles inside certain grocery stores.

