Community Care: Lose the Litter and Recycle!

Kids and grown-ups can team up to care for our neighborhoods, making our communities healthier and safer for people, animals, and plants. We can work together to remove litter, or trash items left behind in places where they don't belong. Our community sends some trash to a place called a landfill where the trash is buried and managed so that it's less likely to hurt nature and us. This helps keep our surroundings cleaner, but it's better if we try to make less trash in the first place.

Aluminum cans, glass bottles, newspapers, and other paper items can be recycled, or made into new things or used again in some way. But some trash, such as soggy cardboard and paper, batteries, and many things made from plastic, cannot be easily recycled. Only certain kinds of plastic can be recycled, depending on your community.

Look at each picture of a piece of litter. Decide if the item can be recycled (R) or if it must go in a landfill (L). Put the letter on the line below the picture.











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Answers: Soggy pizza box (L); old, corroded battery (L); newspaper (R); aluminum soda can (R); green GLASS bottle (R); broken toy (L); crumpled loose-leaf paper (R); plastic rings for soda cans (L).

