

The recycle mouse

There once lived a mouse. A mouse who was eager to eat anything. His name was Puff. But he didn't care about food as much as he cared about stopping that Man who was always stomping around, chewing gum, and not noticing the fact of what a despicable thing he was doing! He dropped Cheeto bags, plastic McDonald's wrappers, and more and more gargantuan loads of plastic. And as you know, this mouse loves food. But he won't eat the Cheetos that "The man" dropped, because our little mouse cares for the **environment!** "I'll be sure to teach that guy a lesson about what he is doing to the beautiful lands of Mice Fields!" Puff uttered in his squeaky voice.

A maple leaf landed on a tree stump. Right in front of Puff. And then, a raindrop fell right onto Puff's head. "Pew, pew, pew!" he moaned. One raindrop for a mouse is like a waterfall. *Splatter, splatter* . . . Puff shook his head back and forth, back and forth, causing his whiskers to become all frazzled. Today for Puff was a crummy day.

Right that moment, the Man came again. With more trash. "Ahhhh!!!!!" Puff screamed. His mouth opened so wide that I'm very sure an entire cheeseburger could fit in there. "Man!!!" He howled. Then the scariest thing happened to Puff. The man looked at Puff. The man stared at Puff. He stared right directly into Puff's almond eyeballs. Puff's heart was beating as fast as a shooting star. His feet trembled, and he held his palms close to his snout. Puff thought as fast as his diminutive mouse brain could think.

"Don't hurt the environment!" Puff squealed. The man took his gum out of his mouth and tossed it in the trash.

"Huh?" the man sputtered.

"I will reiterate! Don't! Hurt! The! Environment!"

"I'm not hurting the environment. I'm composting...I eat, then I take my trash outside, and then throw it out here in the forest." The Man sounded confused.

What is the correct way to recycle, compost and throw away?

- **"Recycling: glass, plastic, cardboard, paper, cans (but no bottle caps)."**
- **"Compost: food scraps, yard waste."**
- **"Trash: Everything else!"**

"Do you *now* know what to recycle, compost and throw away?" Puff screamed again.

"I learned something new today." the Man proclaimed.

THE END