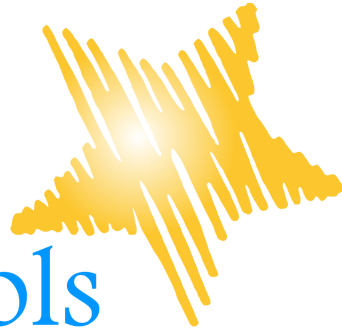


REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!

OUR WORLD, OUR FUTURE

West End
in Schools



“But I’ve learned you are never too small to make a difference. And if a few children can get headlines all over the world just by not going to school, then imagine what we could all do together if we really wanted to.”

- Greta Thunberg

PREPARING FOR YOUR VISIT - A CHECKLIST

- Please confirm your schedule with West End in Schools and share it with all class teachers participating in the day.
- Share this resource pack with all teachers.
- For in person visits, check that the projector and sound system are set up and ready to go before the first workshop.
- Have a wonderful day and share your experience with us:

You can tweet us

[@WestEndInSchool](https://twitter.com/WestEndInSchool)

or find us on Facebook [@WestEndInSchools](https://www.facebook.com/WestEndInSchools)

HOW TO USE THIS PACK

This pack has been divided into three sections to guide you through your unit on Climate Change and the Environment:

- **Background information.**

We have compiled some facts and helpful videos for you and your class to learn more about this topic.

- **Activities**

Please feel free to explore any and all of the suggested activities contained within this pack. The activities have been divided into sections based on activity type, rather than ability level, as many are adaptable for different ages.

- **Making Change**

The final section of this pack contains suggestions for how your class and your school can make changes which will have a positive impact on the environment.

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

TOP FACTS!

- Aluminium cans are 100% recyclable, meaning each can you place in the recycling can end up back on the shelf within 60 days.
- The average household in the UK creates over a tonne of waste each year, which is about the weight of a small car.
- 70% less energy is needed to recycle paper as opposed to making it from raw materials.
- 20 times more plastic is made and used today than it was 50 years ago.
- Glass is 100% recyclable and can be reused over and over again.
- Glass that is thrown into landfills will never decompose
- The average person throws away 74kg of food waste each year. This is the equivalent of 1077 banana skins.

Take a look around you, how many plastic objects can you see? Take a moment and think, could that be made from a different material or do I even need it at all?

THE STORY OF STUFF

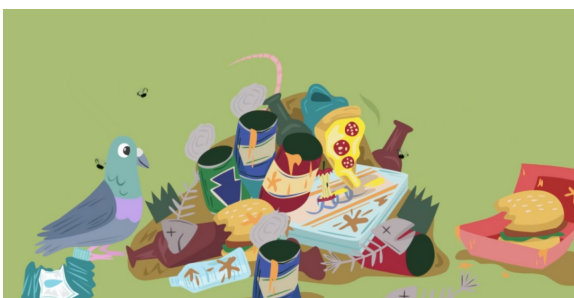
<https://storyofstuff.org/movies/>



The Story of Stuff is a great starting point for learning about where the things that we buy come from. This project includes a great selection of videos, the original being 'The Story of Stuff', suitable for older students.

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH MY RUBBISH?

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/clips/z8s87hv>



BBC Bitesize have put together a short video for KS1 students looking at the importance of recycling. The CBeebies show 'Junk Rescue' also has lots of great idea for turning rubbish into art for children!

GETTING TO GRIPS WITH RECYCLING

1. The recycle relay!

Materials:

Four tubs (two labelled recyclable and the other non-recyclable), plenty of items you may find around the home or classroom!

Aim:

To solidify children's understanding of what can and cannot be recycled.

Process:

- This is just like a relay race so is great to do somewhere where the children have plenty of space to run, like a playground or school hall.
- At one end of the hall set up the four tubs and at the other place the items into two piles.
- Split the class into two team.
- Each team has a big pile of items and they take it in turns to take an item from their pile, run down the hall and place it in either recyclable tub or the non-recyclable tub. They then run back and tag the next person in their team to go.
- Set a time for the race (2-3 minutes) and at the end of the time the team who have the most items in the correct box win.
- EXTENSION: For older students you may want to include some tricky items that will spark discussion or may well surprise them. For example, a lot of gift wrap is non-recyclable, as are many take-away coffee cups because they use a plasticky coating.

2. Recycling symbols: Match up!

Materials:

Symbol matching sheet.

Aim:

To solidify children's understanding of what can and cannot be recycled.

Process:

- Either individually, or as a whole class, have a go at matching the symbols to their meaning.
- Check your answers: 1-E, 2-A, 3-B, 4-F, 5-D, 6-C.
- Take a look at some typical things you may throw away (bottles or yogurt pots for example) and see if the class can identify the symbols.

SYMBOL RECYCLE

Draw a line to match the symbol to the it's meaning

1.



A Most areas will recycle this in your household recycling.

2.



B Not currently accepted in household recycling in some areas.

3.



C This item is capable of being recycled check with your local council or recycling centre.

D This item is compostable.

4.



E This item contains wood from sustainable forests.

5.



F This product is made of 75% recycled waste paper or fibre. Check before recycling as they can only be recycled a certain number of times.

6.



SCIENCE

1. Make your own recycled paper.

Materials:

Scrap paper, a big tub, water, whisks or a blender, a mesh frame (this looks like a very fine sieve in a rectangular frame), and a sponge/flannel and a piece of material.

Aim:

To help children find alternative ways to recycle and to also consider where 'stuff' comes from.

Process:

- Start by asking the children to shred the scrap paper and add it to the tub.
- Next add water, just enough to cover the paper. Have the children take turns in whisking the paper (alternatively you can put it through a blender), under the paper and water combine to a fine pulp.
- Press the mesh frame into the pulp, and gently lift it out of the tub.
- Place your frame onto a flat surface (somewhere it can be left for a day or so to dry).
- Using your sponge or flannel carefully press onto the pulp to absorb any extra liquid.
- Place your felt over the pulp in the frame and leave to dry (somewhere sunny help!).
- Carefully peel up the felt to reveal your recycled paper!

NB: For more ideas on how to make recycled paper take a look at how others have tackled this here!

2. What materials decompose?

Materials:

Observation sheet, two sandwich bags with a handful of soil in, two pieces of vegetable (e.g. a slice of pepper) one of which is wrapped in cling film or plastic.

Aim:

To show compare what happens to natural materials vs plastics.

Process:

- Place the pieces of vegetable into each of the bags.
- Over time observe how the vegetables in each bag change.
- Conclusions: over fruits and vegetables will decay and breakdown as bacteria feeds on it. Bacteria cannot feed on plastic in the same way and so it does not break down.

WHAT CAN DECOMPOSE?

Fill in the sheet below to show what each of your vegetable bags looked like at different stages.

	Bag one – soil and vegetable slice	Bag Two – soil and wrapped vegetable slice
Start		
After one day		
After one week		
Conclusions		

ART & DESIGN

1. Upcycling and Repurposing!

Materials:

Second hand and scrap materials - this can range from old tshirts and magazines to DVDs and egg cartons.

Aim:

To help children consider the best ways to reuse items.

Process:

- Show the children the box of items, discuss what they were once used for and brainstorm ideas for what alternative uses they may have. For example, an old milk bottle could be painted and reused as a flower vase.
- Give the children a selection of materials in groups and ask them to decide on what they are going to transform it into and work together to bring their creation to life. Remind them that the focus is finding a new use for the materials but that they can cut it, change its shape and add to it - by the end it can look totally different to its original state.
- Extension: ask each group to present their new object, Dragon's Den style, to the rest of the class explaining what their raw materials were, what they've made and why they decided upon that.

2. Recycled collages.

Materials:

Bottle tops, scraps of material, old magazines and any other throw away items you may have.

Aim:

To help children consider the best ways to reuse items.

Process:

- This activity can be done in keeping with a theme, flowers or self portraits for example, or it can be left to the children's imagination.
- Give each child a piece of scrap paper or cardboard at the background for their art work.
- Explain to them that using all the scrap materials provided they are to create a new piece of art as a collage.
- It may be helpful to look at collages made from bottle tops or old magazines and explain how items of a similar colour are used to create shapes.

CREATIVE WRITING

1. The life of a

Materials:

Writing material!

Aim:

To help children think about where things come from and where they go when they are thrown away.

Process:

- Using the story 'The Adventures of a Plastic Bottle' by Alison Inches as a starting point, as a class discuss where objects come from and where they go after we are finished with them.
- Ask the children to select one item - this could be anything from a plastic bottle to a skateboard.
- Begin by planning out a story following three key stages: where did the product come from? How was it used? Where did it go next?
- Things for young writers to consider:
 - Narrative voice - who is telling this story? Is it from the point of view of the object?
 - Descriptive language - can you help paint a picture in the readers head about the characters and setting in your story?
 - When writing about 'what happened next' consider whether your item was recyclable or if it is now part of a waste site or if it's polluting the oceans.

MAKING A CHANGE

1. Finding alternatives

Materials:

Everyday items that are non-recyclable.

Aim:

To think about alternative, more eco-friendly items and materials.

Process:

- Take an everyday item that cannot be recycled, for example a toothbrush. Look at the materials it is made from and consider why it has been chosen, for example the handle of a toothbrush needs to be strong enough that it won't bend.
- Discuss what alternatives you could use - either to replace the whole item or to replace the materials it is made with.
- Either in groups or as individuals research alternatives to non-recyclable items and feedback to the group. For example, an alternative to a plastic toothbrush is one made from bamboo!

OUR MISSION

Every child's imagination should be inspired by the arts. Our shows and workshops are highly creative cultural experiences - which children will remember for ever.

WORLD BOOK DAY

<https://westendinschools.org.uk/world-book-day>

Celebrate World Book Day with our online or in person literacy workshops exploring popular children's books, fairytales, or Shakespeare.



DANCE WORKSHOPS

<https://westendinschools.org.uk/dance>

From popular children's books and poetry to cultural celebrations, mini musicals and themes such as friendship and teamwork, our dance workshops encourage children to use their imaginations while engaging with the topic from a new, active perspective.



DRAMA WORKSHOPS

<https://westendinschools.org.uk/drama>

Bring learning to life with the highest quality drama available in schools today. With the guidance of an expert drama facilitator the children develop their feelings and thoughts about your chosen story or topic.

