

ACTIVITY ONE: RUBBISH, RUBBISH, RUBBISH!

This activity gives learners the opportunity to find ways of reducing, reusing and recycling waste.

In groups of 3 or 4, learners read the information below.

Carefully sorting out and looking after our rubbish is a way that we can all help our planet. There are different ways we can decrease the amount of rubbish that ends up in rubbish dumps. Less rubbish means less pollution.

We can decrease (cut down) on rubbish by:

1. reducing (cutting down) what we use,
2. re-using things several times,
3. recycling those things that cannot be reused



Reduce

This is a very important step – if we do it properly there will be less rubbish to worry about. These are some ways that we can reduce what we use:

- Choose strong articles that will last a long time.
- Use rechargeable batteries where possible, cloth dishtowels and napkins (instead of paper ones), and refillable ink pens. Avoid paper plates and cups that can only be used once.
- Store food in the fridge in re-useable, airtight containers, rather than plastic, cling-film, tinfoil or plastic bags.

- Take your own basket, or re-useable plastic bags, to the supermarket so that you don't have to buy new plastic shopping bags each time. Find out if your supermarket collects used shopping bags for recycling.
- At school, photocopy on both sides of the paper.

Re-use

- Where possible, re-use something several times. If you can't use it again, find someone who can.
- Glass and plastic bottles with deposits can be returned to shops.
- Wash and dry plastic bags for re-use.
- Staple together paper that has been written on one side only. You can use it for scrap paper.
- Nursery schools make good use of the inside core of toilet rolls and paper towels, egg boxes, cereal boxes and jam jars.
- Charities welcome unwanted clothes, furniture, toys, books and magazines.
- Repair things rather than throw them away.

Recycle

- The first step is to separate your rubbish at home into left-over food, plastic, glass, cans and paper – all of these can be recycled.
- To find out what recycling programmes operate in your area, contact your local council (municipality).
- Glass and cans are 100% recyclable – make use of bottle banks and can collection points.
- Kitchen and garden waste can be added to the compost heap.

ACTIVITY TWO: RUBBISH, RUBBISH, RUBBISH. WHAT CAN I DO?

This activity encourages learners to consider ways in which they can assist in waste management and how they can save money in the process.

In groups, let the learners talk about different ways to reduce, reuse and recycle waste at home and school. Give each group the worksheet on the following page and let them fill it in with their group's ideas. The children can then explain how each idea would save money.



	IN MY HOUSE	AT OUR SCHOOL
REDUCE		
REUSE		
RECYCLE		

Following on from the previous worksheet, let the children discuss, in their groups, what people usually do (their normal daily habits) and what they could do instead, in order to reduce, reuse and recycle everyday things. One person from each group can report back to the rest of the class.

What people usually do	What people could do instead
Example: When having a braai, we use paper plates	Use plates that can be washed and reused.
Throw away old clothes	
Mom drives me to school in her car	
Buy vegetables in polystyrene trays	
Throw away coke cans	
Use plastic shopping bags	
Throw out old vegetables	
Use paper cups	
Buy individual items with lots of packaging	
Buy cling-wrapped vegetables	
Use paper printed only on one side	
Use tissues	
Use disposable nappies	
Throw away broken items	
Throw away egg boxes, toilet rolls, etc	
Use disposable batteries	
Store food in tin foil	
Use paper towels	
Throw away glass bottles	

ACTIVITY THREE: RECYCLING GLASS

This activity gives learners the opportunity to start their own recycling programme.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Glass is made from sand, limestone and soda ash. Soda ash is a fine and loose stone. This mixture is melted together at very high temperatures and made into glass. The soft glass can be blown into different shapes.



Why should we re-use or recycle glass?

Glass is a very common product. Glass is made up of a lot of *natural materials*. These natural materials are cheap, but there are not lots of them. This is one of the reasons why we should re-use or recycle glass.

Did you know?

Glass was first used in Africa. It was used as containers by the Egyptians in the 15th century BC (Before Christ). Many southern African peoples traded in glass beads with foreigners from Europe and the East.

Re-Using Glass

Glass is one of the few materials we all re-use. Did you know you are re-using glass when you wash a drinking glass and use it again! Or you may be re-using a bottle that once had food in it, as a vase for flowers. We often only throw glass away when it is broken.

Even broken glass can be re-used. Helen Martin used broken glass to decorate her house and sculptures. The house in which she lived is called the Owl House. The walls and ceilings of her house are covered in crushed glass of all colours. The glass has been made into different forms and shapes. Her house glitters and twinkles, especially in the moonlight.

Recycling glass

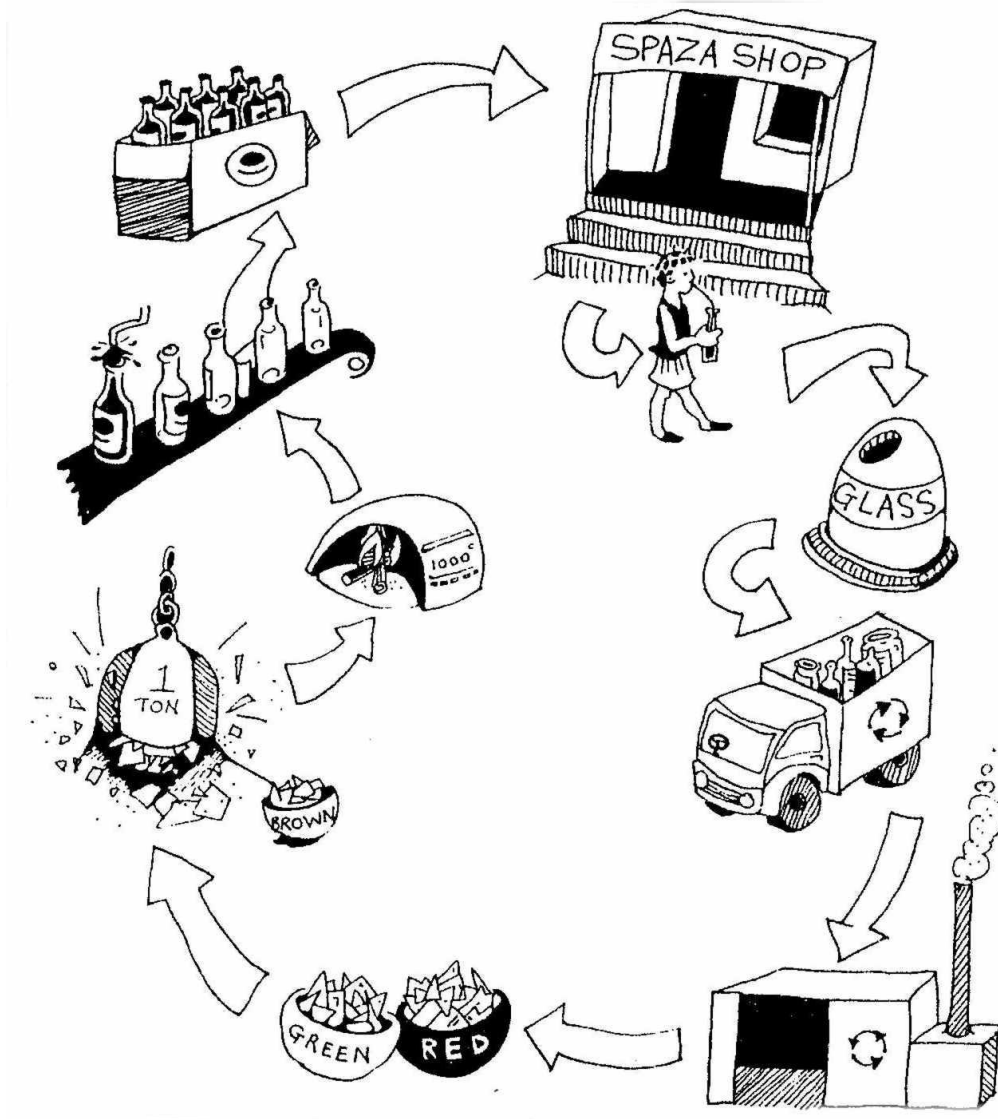
You have probably all heard of glass recycling. In fact many of you have probably collected glass at school or home for recycling.

Recycling glass is different to re-using it. Recycling of glass takes place when old glass is collected and broken down. The broken down glass is melted and moulded into new glass items.

Not all glass is suitable for recycling. Light bulbs and window panes are often made with a mixture of glass and clay and cannot be recycled.

The glass trail

The picture shows what happens to glass when it has been dropped off for recycling.



- ⇒ A truck collects the glass from the collection site and take it to a recycling factory.
- ⇒ At the factory it is separated into different colours, usually green, brown and clear.
- ⇒ The glass is then broken down into cullet which is melted at a very high temperature.
- ⇒ The liquid glass is then moulded into a new item such as a bottle. The bottle is then sold to a company which will fill it with their product.
- ⇒ A shop will buy this product. You will then buy this product from the shop.
- ⇒ When you have finished the contents in the bottle you will deposit the bottle at a glass collection site. **The cycle will begin again!!**

TAKING ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION!

Recycling glass at your school can make money. This is how to start a glass recycling project.

- Form a group of classmates or people from your grade or school who would be interested in setting up a glass collection point. You might want to ask a teacher to join the group to help you.
- Make sure the head of your school thinks a glass recycling collection point at your school is a good idea.
- If there are any other glass collection points in your area, find out if they are doing well (you may need to ask your teacher to help you with this). If they are, you might want to work with them or try collecting other items for recycling.
- You will also need to find out the price of a glass igloo. If it is too expensive, what other ways do they suggest you use to store the glass.
- Find out who will collect the glass and how much they will give you per kilogram of glass.
- After your investigations, decide if it is worthwhile to set up a glass collection point. If it is, you will need to advertise the collection point to your school, parents, local newspapers or newsletters and communities in your area.

Designing an advert to let the other children know about your glass recycling collection point.



The drawing on the left shows some useful tips for designing an advert. The whole class can design adverts and the best one can be photocopied and stuck up at the school and local library.

When the glass recycling project is up and running, you should make sure that:

- Glass is always collected by the collection company you have chosen,
- The area around the igloo is tidy and free of broken glass,
- The money made from the project is recorded and saved for school projects, such as buying new library books or greening the school grounds.

The rest of the school should be told how much money is made from the recycling project. This can be done through posters displayed in the school library or records read out in assembly. Reporting of information is very important for encouraging your school to continue recycling.

Remember the following when collecting glass for recycling.

- Remove metal caps and tops from bottles before placing them in bottle banks.
- Do not throw window panes or windscreens in the igloos.
- Rinse out bottles to avoid creating smelly igloos.
- Don't throw bags and boxes into the igloos or leave them lying nearby as litter.
- Find out if different colour bottles need to be separated.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, HAVE FUN!!