

HAVE SOME FUN!

Activities, crafts, games and projects

Here you'll find activities, crafts, games and projects that you can do to help get students, your family or your community interested in the waste topic.



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1. Waste Audit

Before you begin your experiment in minimizing waste, organise a waste clean-up in your home/community/school and keep a record of the items collected. Use the findings to decide what action to take on this issue e.g. working together with a local recycle centre! You can use the table below to get started.

ITEM	TOTAL (kg/g)	ITEM	TOTAL (kg/g)	ITEM	TOTAL (kg/g)
PLASTICS					
Bags		fishing line		rice sacks	
Bottles		fishing net		medical	
containers		other			
GLASS					
Bottles		Jars		Other	
METAL					
bottle tops		wire		food containers	
Cans		oil containers		Other	
PAPER					
newspaper		cardboard		Other	
RUBBER					
Tires		flip flops		Other	
OTHER					
Wood		organic		cigarette filters	
Cloth					

2. Waste Race: How and what does nature recycle naturally?

Some types of waste will break down into small particles and turn into soil. This type of waste is biodegradable. Other types of waste will not break down and will remain in the environment for thousands of years. In this activity, you will discover which types of waste are biodegradable.

You will need

- A tool to dig with labels to mark the position of each type of litter
- A banana peel
- A leaf from a green leafy vegetable like spinach
- A plastic bag
- Different types of paper
- A piece of styrofoam
- A calendar



Here's what you do

- Make labels for the four pieces of trash
- Find a spot to dig a few holes. Try to find a spot that has warm, moist soil. Warm, moist soils breaks down biodegradable trash faster. Be sure to ask your parents or teachers if it's okay to dig there.
- Dig four holes that are wide and deep enough to put something in
- Put each of the four pieces of trash in a separate hole. The fruit core goes in one hole; the vegetable leaf in the second hole; the plastic packaging in the third hole; the styrofoam in the last hole.
- Fill the holes back up with dirt & mark each hole with the right label.
- Mark the date you buried the four pieces of trash on the calendar; observe the litter every week for changes

Talk with your family or community members about the changes you observe and try to answer the following questions

- Did you find all the pieces of trash?
- Which pieces were gone or almost all gone?
- Which pieces of trash were still there?
- Which types of trash are biodegradable?
- Which types are not biodegradable?
- Which kinds of trash are better for the environment?
- How can we change what we do with packaging and trash to make things better for the environment?

DID YOU KNOW?	
Object	Decomposition Time
Styrofoam container	> 1 million years
Plastic jug	1 million years
Aluminum can	200-500 years
Disposable diaper	550 years
Tinned can	90 years
Leather shoe	45 years
Paper bag	1 month
Banana peel	3-4 weeks

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3. Make paper



1. Tear waste paper into small pieces.
2. Put in a bucket with warm water and leave overnight.
3. Mash the paper and water into a pulp like porridge.
4. Half fill another bowl with water (large enough for the frame).
5. Add some pulp and stir.
6. Lower a netting frame on the bottom of the bowl and lift up.
7. Put frame on board covered with a cloth so that paper is facing downwards.
8. Lift frame leaving paper behind and put another board on top to squeeze out excess water.
9. Allow paper on cloth to dry in the sun.
10. You can try adding flower/leaf petals and natural color.

4. Art competition

Create an art competition in your school/environmental club, community to use the most creative materials - plastics, rubber, bottles, old newspaper, trash; anything but paper and paint - to create an art piece that is meaningful to them. Hold a gallery at the end of the competition and have parents and teachers come to view the artwork. The winner is chosen by the piece that gets the most applause at its presentation!

5. Make a mobile

Go scavenging for interesting trash (pieces of plastic, bottle caps, plastic pipe— anything could be beautiful) or anything else you find interesting. Take two strong sticks and lash them together with string. Paint or adorn your findings any way you wish, and attach them to the sticks with string. Hang your mobile someplace high up, where the wind can blow through it.



6. Make a nursery

Collect empty yoghurt cups, plastic bottles or tin cans and fill the containers with soil (and any compost, if you've made it!). Bury a seed— a tree, a flower, vegetables, anything! — a few centimeters down, and place the containers in a sunny spot. Be sure to water your plants if it hasn't rained, and watch your plants grow! Once they have grown a few inches tall, you can plant them in a garden, or sell them in a fundraiser for your environmental club, community!

