

Be a Recycling Star- An introduction to Recycling

Recommended Key Stage: 1 and 2

Recommended group size: 6- 30 children

Duration: 1 hour

Overview: Recycling is easy when you know how! Introduce the concept of recycling, why it is important do so and how to recycle in Test Valley. Test your knowledge through a variety of games and activities and find out how to spread the recycling message to all.

Learning Objectives:

- ★ Understand what happens to the things we throw away and introduce the concept of recycling
- ★ To explore what recycling means and why it is an important option for dealing with waste
- ★ Introduce the concept of the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)
- ★ Understand how we recycle in Test Valley
- ★ Introduce the concept of lifecycles and what happens to things once they have been recycled
- ★ Understand the importance of sharing good recycling practices

Key Vocabulary:

Reduce
Reuse
Recycle
Waste
Rubbish
Brown Bin
Black Bin
Incinerator
Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)
Local Recycling Centre
Composting

Curriculum Links:

Science- Materials and their properties

- ★ Sorting objects into groups by properties
- ★ Recognise and name common materials (metal, wood, plastic, paper) and that some are found naturally
- ★ The role of decomposition in recycling

Geography- Knowledge and understanding of environmental change and sustainable development

Citizenship- Preparing to play an active role as citizens

- ★ Research, debate and discuss topical issues
- ★ How to look after and improve their local environment.

Design and Technology- Evaluating processes and products

- ★ Recognise how the quality of a product depends upon its properties, characteristics and how it has been manipulated.

Preparation:

- ★ The activities are spread over 4 stations and require 4- 5 tables
- ★ The Compost Challenge can be conducted in a carpet space or reading corner
- ★ Children will need to be split into 4 equal sized groups
- ★ We require 2-3 members of staff to be present to manage each station or move round with each group- instructions will be provided for each activity
- ★ The Recycling Stars team require 10-15 minutes to set up the activities. It is preferable that this is conducted whilst children are out of the classroom.

Resources provided by Test Valley

Borough Council:

- ★ Activity Carousel
- ★ Recycling resources
- ★ Recycling Stars activity sheets
- ★ Recycling Stars pledge cards

Resources to be provided by school:

- ★ Pencils / pens
- ★ Colouring pencils

Resources to be provided by the children:

- ★ None

Outline of activities:

Introduction to recycling

- ★ Find out what recycling means and why we recycle.
- ★ Explain how we recycle in Test Valley- Brown Bin and Local Recycling Centres
- ★ Explain what can be disposed of as recycling in Test Valley and what must be disposed of as waste.

★ Game

Place pictures around the room of a black bin, brown bin and local recycling centre. Pull items out of a bag and ask children to move and stand in front of the picture that best depicts how the item should be disposed of.

Activity Carousel

Work in groups of 6-8 children to move round the activity stations.

Activity 1- Run a Recycling Centre

- ★ Explain, with the help of large laminated images, what happens to recycling once it has been collected from the home.
- ★ Stand children around the conveyor belt, designating each child with a specific item to collect.
- ★ Ask 1 child to turn the conveyor belt steadily whilst adding items to the belt
- ★ Children who are collecting should carefully take items off the conveyor belt and put them into their bucket.
- ★ Once 1 cycle is completed, look through buckets to see which items went into the correct buckets and discuss items that were not put into the correct buckets.
- ★ Repeat the activity to see if they can sort everything correctly.

Timings:

5 minutes

10 - 15 minutes per activity

Activity 2- What am I made from?

- ★ Explain to children that recycling does not always mean turning something into a new version of what it originally was i.e. a can does not always become another can.
- ★ Ask children to walk around both tables and see what items they can see and what the pictures show
- ★ Invite children to pick the items up and inspect them
 - ★ Encourage children to consider the properties of the items
 - ★ Point out things like weight, colour, shape, texture
 - ★ Are there any obvious identifying features e.g. logos, patterns, colours etc.
- ★ Children can take it in turns to choose an item and place it on the corresponding card.
 - ★ Some children may choose the same card for 2 items
 - ★ Get children to briefly explain their decision
- ★ Turn cards over to find answers and discuss ideas as answers are revealed

Activity 3- Recycling Bingo

- ★ Children can work in pairs at each board
- ★ To play
 - ★ The caller (adult or child) takes cards out of the bucket and reads out what is on it
 - ★ Children cover items with the recycling star cards as they are read out.
 - ★ The team that completes their board first shouts "BINGO"
- ★ The boards can be swapped around and repeated
- ★ Ask children if they can see a pattern in the pictures on their board- recycling at home, using Local Recycling Centres, household waste disposal
- ★ Once the activity is exhausted, children can attempt the Recycling Stars Activity Sheet

Activity 4- The Compost Challenge

- ★ Using the accompanying fact sheet, talk to children about what composting is and how it works
 - ★ Talk about the properties of things that can and cannot be composted
 - ★ Talk about how and why certain items cannot be composted- meat, fish, cooked food
- ★ Children can take it in turns to choose cards and stick them to the board under "Yes, I can be composted" or "No, I cannot be composted."
- ★ Share and discuss the answers
- ★ Once activity is exhausted, children can take a pledge card and think about 1 thing they can do to help Recycling Star. Children can also continue/ begin the Recycling Stars Activity Sheet

Plenary Activity

- ★ Check children's learning
 - ★ List everything that can be put in the brown recycling bin
 - ★ List things that should go to a local recycling centre
 - ★ List things that should go in the black bin
- ★ Ask some children to read out what they are going to do to help Recycling Star

Activities 3 and 4 can be run together or separately depending on group size.

5–10 minutes

Follow up activities:

- ★ Write a letter, a poem or design a recycling poster that can be shared with the school or taken home to help others recycle more and waste less too.
- ★ Write a diary about how they have helped recycle at home, reporting back to class.
- ★ Ask each child to try and fulfil their pledge and report back to the class how they have done so
- ★ Locate and visit a Local Recycling Centre near school and encourage the school community to use it.

External links and information:

- ★ Recycling in Test Valley. Download our comprehensive recycling guide here.
www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/wasteandrecycling/recycling/cannot-recycle-test-valley
- ★ Local Recycling Centres
www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/wasteandrecycling/recycling/local-recycling-centres
- ★ Home Composting
www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/wasteandrecycling/recycling/homecomposting
- ★ Waste processing and disposal
www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/wasteandrecycling/waste-processing-disposal
- ★ Recycling Locator- find out where you can recycle certain items
www.recyclenow.com/local-recycling
- ★ How recycling is processed- information about the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) where recycling is sorted
www.veolia.co.uk/hampshire/materials-recovery/materials-recovery/alton-mrf
- ★ How energy is recovered from incinerating household waste including a video of the process in Hampshire
www.veolia.co.uk/hampshire/energy-recovery/energy-recovery/how-does-it-work
www.veolia.co.uk/hampshire/energy-recovery/energy-recovery/energy-waste-process