

A History of Waste and Recycling

Recommended Key Stage: 1 and 2

Recommended group size: 6- 30 children

Duration: As required

Overview: The concept that waste is a resource is not a modern idea. Recycling has been carried out by people across the world for many thousands of years.

Use our resource sheets (**The Three Rs** and **A History of Waste and Recycling**) to incorporate waste and recycling information into environmental and historical study as required.

Learning Objectives:

- ★ Introduce the concept of the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)
- ★ To explore what recycling means and why it is an important option for dealing with waste
- ★ To explore how people throughout history have managed the resources available to them
- ★ Understand how historical ideas have shaped modern recycling practices
- ★ Understand how general environmental awareness has influenced recycling
- ★ Understand the importance of sharing good recycling practices
- ★ To explore how recycling has evolved in Test Valley

Key Vocabulary:

Reduce
Reuse
Recycle
Resource
Environment
Environmental awareness
Waste management
Composting
Waste disposal
Fly-tipping
Trade waste

Curriculum Links:

History

- ★ Chronological detail of local, British and world history
- ★ Identify similarities and differences between ways of life in different periods
- ★ The achievements of early civilisation
- ★ The impact of technology, culture and beliefs
- ★ Changes in social history
- ★ The legacy of previous culture on later periods
- ★ Significant turning points in history

Preparation: This is an independent activity that can be incorporated into historical and general environmental study.

To accompany the suggested activities below, please download our resource sheets:

- ★ The Three Rs
- ★ A History of Waste and Recycling

Resources provide by Test Valley Borough Council:

- ★ 'The Three Rs' Resource Sheet
- ★ 'A History of Waste and Recycling' Resource Sheet

Resources to be provided by school:

Resources to be provided by the children:

Outline of activities:

Introduction to recycling

- ★ Find out what recycling means
- ★ Find out what reduce and reuse mean and their relationship to recycling (See 'The Three Rs' Resource Sheet for more information)

Explore Timeline

- ★ Use the key date timeline to consider some of the high profile events in history
- ★ Use the colour coding to focus on a particular period of history
- ★ Examples of activities include:
 - ★ Focus on a particular period of history
 - ★ Draw or write about particular historical dates and build a classroom timeline in the style of a washing line across the classroom
 - ★ Work in groups to further explore a particular period of time and share with the class
 - ★ Consider all the historical issues and look at ranking them by significance or grouping the effect they might have had (community, nationally, internationally)

Plenary Activity

- ★ Check children's learning
 - ★ Children should be able to recall the Three Rs
 - ★ What they mean
 - ★ Why they are important
 - ★ Ask children about developments that stand out to them
 - ★ Why do they stand out?
 - ★ Why are they more significant than some of the other developments
 - ★ On what scale were the developments significant

Timings:

5 minutes

10 - 15 minutes per activity

Follow up activities:

- ★ Design a poster about the Three Rs
- ★ Investigate the invention of disposable items

External links and information:

- ★ Resource sheets

www.testvalley.gov.uk/recyclingstars

- ★ 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

- ★ Waste processing and disposal

www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/wasteandrecycling/waste-processing-disposal

- ★ 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