



## Make a "Waste timeline"

Cut up the strips, mix them up and encourage your group to put them in the correct chronological order



Even the earliest humans created waste. They threw away bones, leather, and broken pots



The earliest organised landfill was in Crete, Greece in 3000BC. Waste was put into large pits and covered with earth



The Maya civilisation of Central America (2000BC) had a monthly ritual, in which the people of the village would gather together and burn their waste in large dumps



In London in 1354, people called "Rakers" were employed, who once a week would rake the waste off the streets and load it into carts. By 1407, it was ruled that the people had to keep their own waste at their houses until the Rakers could remove the waste



Laws were passed to stop people from just dumping waste in the street. In 1515, court records show that Shakespeare's father was fined for 'depositing filth in a public street'





In the early 1800's people were making a living from going through people's waste;  
"Toshers" were people who searched the sewers looking for coins, metal, rope and sometimes they would come across jewellery.

"Mud-larks" were people who scavenged the riverbanks looking for waste items

"Dustmen" collected ash from the coal fires. The dust was taken to a dust yard where men, women and children worked through the dust pile sieving out the hard bits. The dust was then used to improve soil and in brick making

**Was this the first recycling?**



The first factory to burn waste (incinerate) was designed and built in Nottingham in 1874; it was given the name of "destructor" with the aim to generate energy from waste. During the next 30 years a further 250 destructors were built across Britain

The Public Health Act 1875 made it the local council's duty to remove and dispose of waste. People had to keep their waste in a container that could be moved.  
This was the first "dustbin" which would later become a wheelie bin that the council would collect once a week.





By the late 1800's all household waste was collected in moveable containers and sorted by hand, usually by women or girls. A large amount of the waste was reused, such as glass and metals .



The British Paper Company was made in 1890 to make paper and cardboard from recycled materials

During and after the Second World War (1945) there was not much waste as everything was saved, mended, reused as much as possible.  
The "Rag and Bone" man was a common sight going round houses and shouting for people to bring out unwanted items that could be salvaged and reclaimed.



In 1956, the Government were worried about the pollution in the air so they made new laws about burning. This meant that people were told not to burn waste on their home fires. The amount of waste that needed to be got rid of a different way started to increase and large landfill sites began to be made



In the 1970's, people began to be worried about the environment.  
The first bottle banks where people could take their glass bottles to be collected for recycling started to be placed in communities





In the 1980's and 1990's, more regulations were made to make industry and businesses that made products take responsibility for the amount of waste that they made and how items were disposed of



In the year 2000, the Government set targets for recycling and composting with strict deadlines to meet these targets  
Households were given wheelie bins so that they could sort and separate their waste at home  
50% of household waste should be being recycled or composted by 2020

