



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Activity Ideas

Ideas for KS1

Make recycling bins for the home

Ask children to bring in something from home that can be reused to make a small recycling bin e.g. an old box or container. Children can design and decorate their boxes or containers and create a label to show what should be put in the bin. These bins could then be used in the school or at home to sort recycling.

Homemade jigsaws

Instead of throwing away greeting cards, cut them up and make a homemade puzzle. Cereal boxes are great for making jigsaws as well.

Upcycle waste

Before recycling items, try to repurpose them. For example, make a pencil pot out of tubes or empty containers. Plant pots can be made from old steel cans, plastic containers or even wellies!

Musical instruments

Collect together a selection of packaging items and explore the kinds of sounds children could make with them. Consider how to create a beater to hit the instrument, add elastic bands as strings to pluck or fill items with rice to create a shaker.





Ideas for KS2

'Reduce your Waste' Poster

Design a poster to encourage people to reduce the amount of waste they create. This could include examples such as:

- Only buy what you need
- Buy second hand
- Use bags for life or other reusable bags
- Choose reusable water bottles and hot drink flasks
- Store leftovers in reusable containers in the fridge or freezer
- Borrow books from a library or friend
- Have milk delivered in glass bottles
- Choose to buy loose fruit and vegetables
- Buy one large bottle of cordial and not 10 small disposable drinks
- Buy from a butcher or greengrocer avoiding over packaged food
- Use a local refill shop for buying food or cleaning products
- Reduce junk mail by opting not to receive letters in the post
- Choose reusable nappies/wipes/make up pads instead of disposable

Waste Free Lunch

Design a 'waste free' lunch. Think of as many ways as possible to reduce food packaging and food waste (e.g. by using reusable containers rather wrapping food in cling film or foil, saying no to individually wrapped children's foods, buying in bulk and decanting into smaller portions, reusing a water bottle, composting leftover scraps, buying loose fruit and vegetables etc).

