

Geography

Waste And Recycling



For Middle Primary



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Preview

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Australian Waste

Read the information, then complete the activity sheets which follow.

Think about the different things that you throw away each day - this all adds up to waste. Waste is harmful to our environment and we should think about ways to reduce it.

Fast Waste Facts

Fact 1

Each year an average Australian family of four, produces enough waste to fill up a three-bedroom house.

Fact 2

It is estimated that every year, an Australian throws into the bin: 415 kilograms of food, 500 aluminium cans, 150 kilograms of paper and 200 bottles and jars.

Fact 3

Plastic packaging takes approximately a thousand years to break down in landfill.

Fact 4

800 million disposable nappies are delivered to Australian landfills each year. A disposable nappy takes centuries to break down completely.

Fact 5

Clothes are the second largest polluter after oil in Australia. Clothes are not biodegradable. This means that they do not break down and cannot be placed in the yellow recycling bin. While sitting in landfill, dyes from clothes can leak into the soil, polluting the environment.

Fact 6

Many Australians do not recycle correctly. This means that the recycling bin can contain many contaminated items such as: plastic bags, garden waste, food scraps, clothing and e-waste.

Where Does Waste Go?

Waste that is not correctly disposed of can end up in our oceans. This has damaging effects on our marine life, which either accidentally ingest the debris or become entangled and unable to free themselves. Every year it is reported that marine creatures die and are put at risk from debris that has made its way into our oceans.



Use the information on page 3 to help you to complete this activity sheet.

1. Write down four interesting facts about waste.

FACT 1	FACT 3
FACT 3	FACT 4



2. Provide definitions of:

Reduce: _____

Reuse: _____

Recycle: _____

3. In the table write down examples of how you do each.

Reduce	Reuse	Recycle

Use the information on page 3 to help you to complete this activity sheet.

1. Draw and label the types of waste that you think can end up in our oceans.

Preview

2. People have come up with some great waste solutions. One is edible packaging. Use your research skills to complete the plus and minus chart on this idea.

Edible Packaging

Plus +	Minus -

Give this designed product a thumbs up rating from 0 (poor) to 5 (excellent).



Answers

Page 3

2. Reduce: to use less of

Reuse: to use again

Recycle: to turn one thing into another

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Student response

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