

# A load of rubbish!



PUPIL'S CARD 2

## What is our rubbish made up of?

Rubbish is made up of several different things. Each week we throw away:



1. Food/other waste 37% - e.g. vegetable peelings, tea leaves, broken crockery and dust.

2. Paper 33% - e.g. old newspapers, comics, magazines, cardboard packets and cartons.

3. Plastic 11% - e.g. supermarket carrier bags, plastic wrappers, plastic bottles.

4. Glass 9% - e.g. drinks bottles, honey or jam jars, perfume bottles.

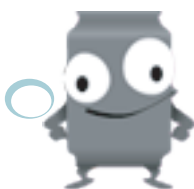
5. Metal 8% - e.g. cans that contained fizzy drinks or food, shoe polish, petfood, hairspray or deodorant. Most of the cans or 'tins' in your dustbin are made from steel.

6. Textiles 2% - e.g. old clothes

### Super Stats!

3,500 dustbins full of rubbish are thrown away every minute in Europe.

If you collect all the rubbish you make in one year it would weigh 10 times as much as you do!



### Bright idea

A good way to deal with rubbish is to recycle it or re-use it. This saves resources and energy as well as cutting down on the amount we throw away.

How would you recycle or re-use the following rubbish?

Metal, paper, Plastics, Glass, Food/other waste, Plastics, Textiles.

### Things to do

1. Make a list of the different things you throw away each week. Which of these can be recycled? Which can be re-used?

2. Write to the Recycling Officer of your local council to find out if there's a can collection scheme operating in your area and for more information on recycling.



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## TEACHER'S CARD

2

### What is our rubbish made up of?

Our weekly rubbish can be divided up as follows:

#### Metal

In Britain, virtually all food and petfood cans and about one half of all drinks cans are steel. Steel is 100% recyclable. Around 2 billion steel cans are recycled every year. That's more than 30 per head.

Some local councils operate can bank schemes, such as Save-a-Can, and some collect cans from your doorstep. Other councils have magnetic extractors, which separate steel cans from rubbish. For details about the facilities in your area, contact the Steel Can Recycling Information Bureau (Tel: 01554 712632) or ring your local Recycling Officer.

#### Glass

Almost 200 glass jars and bottles are thrown away in Britain every second. In America, it is 900 per second! All bottles and jars can go to your nearest bottle bank to be recycled.

#### Textiles

Recycled fibres from worn-out clothes or clothes that have been grown out of can be put in clothing banks and used to make padding for armchairs and other furniture. You can also give old clothes to charity shops.

#### Compostibles

Compostibles are organic food/waste, e.g. potato peelings, vegetable rubbish and small particles of dust. People with gardens can start a compost heap for their organic waste instead of throwing it away, which is good for the environment and the garden!

#### Paper

A huge amount of paper and card is thrown away daily. Old newspaper and magazines can be taken to paper banks for recycling. Alternatively, they can be given to dentists' or doctors' waiting rooms, or passed on to hospitals or old people's homes. Recycled paper is widely used for birthday cards, toilet paper, paper towels, notepads, etc.

#### Plastics

More plastic recycling schemes are being developed, but there are not many at present. One problem with plastic recycling is that the basic six types of plastic need to be separated. Re-using plastic supermarket carrier bags is one way of helping.

■ Glass	9%
■ Metal	8%
■ Plastic	11%
■ Paper	33%
■ Compostibles	37%
■ Textiles	2%



### Activities

1. For information about recycling opportunities in your area, call your local council and ask for the Recycling Officer. You will find the number in the Yellow Pages. He or she may be able to provide someone who can visit your school to explain how rubbish is collected and what happens to it.
2. Pupils could make up a jingle or TV commercial, or design a newspaper advertisement, to encourage people to recycle their household waste.

### Project

Ask pupils what they think would happen to a selection of items, such as a plastic bag, a newspaper and a steel drinks can, if they were buried in the ground and left for several weeks. If pupils do not know, they could experiment under supervision. (They must not include any organic waste or broken or crushed materials such as glass). Pupils should draw up a report about what they think would happen, saying whether they think this would be a good way to get rid of rubbish.

### Useful addresses:

#### Steel Can Recycling Information Bureau (SCRIB)

Trostre works, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, SA14 9SD  
Telephone: 01554 712632  
Email: [info@scrib.org](mailto:info@scrib.org), Web: [www.scrib.org](http://www.scrib.org)

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