

RECYCLING



**Stimulus Cards To Build Writing Skills
And Environmental Awareness**

ECO WRITE cards contain images, information and activities to increase awareness of global and environmental issues for students through writing in a variety of genres. The focus is on individual and small group work with discussion at whole class level, using the CD-ROM supplied in this pack to facilitate projection on a whiteboard.

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RECYCLING

What Happens To Our Waste?

What's the issue?

- Our waste is either incinerated (burned), put in landfill or recycled. Some is dumped at sea.
- These can all have negative effects on the environment.
- Everyone can help by producing less waste and following the 'three Rs' – reduce, re-use, recycle.

What you need to know ...

Recycling saves more energy than is generated by burning waste because it means making fewer new things from raw materials. It also means less pollution in the air. Deprived of air and water, even organic wastes degrade slowly in a landfill. Decaying waste in landfill can produce weak acidic chemicals called leachate and landfill gas.

Landfill gases contain methane and carbon dioxide, which can add to global warming. Dumping waste at sea can cause more damage to the environment.

Explanation

1. The four pictures show what happens in the process of recycling. Put them in the correct order and explain what you see at each stage.
2. Write an explanation of how waste is recycled generally, from when you place it in a waste bin. How much is recycled? How much goes into landfill? How much is burned? Why?
3. Explain what happens to glass, plastic or paper waste, from when it is left in the home to when it appears as a recycled product. You may need to do some research.

Let's plan it ...

- Set the scene (what? when? where?) in your introduction.
- Decide if your explanation will be formal or informal.
- Decide why you are explaining: how or why?
- Plan each paragraph in the order of events so the sequence is right.
- Do you need diagrams or charts to help?
- Use the third person, the present tense.
- Use detailed descriptions.
- What special vocabulary will you need?



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Landfill

What's the issue?

- Historically, landfills have been the most common method of organised waste disposal and remain so in many places around the world.
- Management of the by-products of landfill is essential. Liquids and gases need to be contained and reprocessed.
- For some products, there is no alternative but to bury them safely in landfill.

What you need to know ...

A landfill is like a tightly-sealed storage container and is designed to slow down degradation to protect the environment from contamination. Deprived of air and water, even organic wastes like paper and grass clippings, degrade very slowly in a landfill. Decaying waste in landfill can produce weak acidic chemicals called leachate, as well as landfill gases (methane and carbon dioxide). To prevent leachate contaminating streams, it is collected and disposed of at a waste-water treatment plant.

Poetry

1. Poetry is not only concerned with attractive things. Write poems about the birds circling this landfill site. You will need to find words to describe the way they move (hovering, diving, wheeling) and the sounds that they make (screeching, cawing). You could write haiku - 17 syllable poems in 3 lines.
2. Think about the site and how you would react with your senses. What would you smell, feel, see, hear, touch? Use some of these images to make your poems real.

Let's plan it ...

- Poems do not have to rhyme!
- Language has to be clear and make pictures in a reader's mind.
- Use your senses. Collect together words and ideas about: taste, hearing, touch, smell, what you see. Make a chart to help.
- Always think of shape, size, colour, texture, when describing something. List words under these four headings, e.g. round, tiny, blue, rough stones .
- Think about similes (comparisons using 'like' or 'as'). Use metaphors (comparisons without 'like' or 'as').



RECYCLING

Recycling At Home

What's the issue?

- We produce enormous amounts of waste at home and much of this can be recycled, with a little effort.
- Much of what we can do at home is simple but very effective.
- If we all recycled to a small extent then the impact would be enormous. Local initiatives have a global impact.

What you need to know ...

By recycling more waste at home, we can save landfill - reducing the need to find new sites; saving energy - reducing global-warming gases and pollution; saving raw materials; saving water - reducing shortages and pollution. Garden waste is a big contributor to domestic waste. This needs to be composted. Paper and board is also a major part of a home's waste. This needs to be recycled to make new paper. We could choose products in packaging which we know can be recycled.

Discussion

1. Look at the picture. Discuss whether bins such as these should be supplied free to all households to encourage recycling. Some people find them ugly and too big to fit outside their houses. Are these important arguments?
2. The bins in the picture show two types of recycling. Discuss the benefits of recycling organic waste for compost. Is this a difficult thing to do? What would happen to this material if it was not composted? How can the compost be of benefit to us all?

Let's plan it ...

- Decide what your discussion is about.
- Any special vocabulary?
- Note arguments for and against.
- Take each of these one at a time and use separate paragraphs.
- Do not take one side or another – discussion gives a balanced view!
- Always give reasons and examples to prove your points.
- At the end, summarise. Say what you think about the issue.
- Discussions are quite formal.
- Use the present tense, the third person.