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Photo Cards To Build Environmental Awareness

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ECO PHOTO cards contain images, information and activities to increase awareness of global and environmental issues for students working in a cross-curricular context. The focus is on discussion in groups as well as at whole class level, using the CD-ROM supplied in this pack to facilitate projection onto a whiteboard.

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## What Happens To Our Waste?



## Background Information

- 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.

## Look At The Photographs

1. One photo shows different waste bins outside a home. What could each be used for to help recycling? How can you tell?
2. What can you see happening in the other photos? Which of these forms of recycling do you use?
3. What happens to waste that cannot be easily recycled? Which photo shows this? Why must this waste be covered up by a deep layer of soil?
4. What do you think you would find at a recycling centre?

## Linked Activities

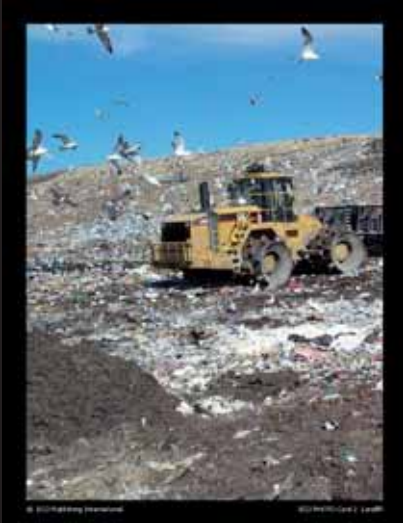
- Investigate food cycles and how polluting the environment may affect these.
- Find out how pollution can affect the life in the ocean if waste is dumped there.
- Make pictures using re-used/recycled fabrics.
- Create posters to encourage people to adopt the 3Rs.
- Carry out surveys to find out how many people know about the 3Rs.

## More Information

Recycling saves far more energy than is generated by burning waste because it means making fewer new things from raw materials. It also means less pollution from smoke, ash and gases. Deprived of air and water, even organic wastes degrade slowly in a landfill. The decaying waste in landfill can produce weak acidic chemicals, which create pollution of the land and water. Landfill gases contain methane and carbon dioxide, which can add to global warming.



## Landfill



## Background Information

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

## Look At The Photograph

This photo shows a landfill site. All kinds of waste has been dumped there.

1. Why do you think there are lots of birds flying very low over the waste?
2. What is the dumper truck doing?
3. What are some of the dangers to the soil, air and our water from treating waste in this way?
4. What is being used to cover the waste in the foreground of the photo? Why is this being done?

## Linked Activities

- Create an advertising leaflet, proposing good points about landfill sites.
- Write newspaper articles about why people do not like landfill sites, but how they are useful.
- Find out where the nearest landfills are to you. Look at pictures on the Internet. Do they look like unpleasant places?
- Consider the alternatives to landfill. Which are the most likely to cause environmental damage?

## More Information

A landfill is more like a tightly sealed storage container and is designed to slow down degradation to protect the environment from harmful contamination. Deprived of air and water, even organic wastes like paper and grass clippings, degrade very slowly in a landfill. However, the decaying waste in landfill can produce weak acidic chemicals, and give off gases containing methane and carbon dioxide. These are greenhouse gases and contribute to global warming.

PLEASE HOLD BOTH HANDLES



PLEASE HOLD BOTH HANDLES



# REUSABLE RECYCLABLE

This bag is made from 100% recycled paper and is completely recyclable.

The paper is a minimum of 40% post-consumer recycled fiber and the remainder is post-industrial recycled fiber, excluding handles.



RECYCLED PAPER

WHOLE  
FOODS  
MARKET

## Recycling At Home



## Background Information

- 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 can be simple but effective.
- If we all recycled to a small extent then the impact would be enormous. Local initiatives have a global impact.
- Everyone can help by producing less waste and following the 'three Rs' – reduce, re-use, recycle.

## Look At The Photograph

1. What does the photo show?
2. Are you intended to throw the bag away after using it? How do you know?
3. At the end of its life, what are you told to do with the bag? Why is this important?
4. How many trees were cut down to make the paper for this bag?
5. Why is using this bag better than using a plastic one?
6. How does your school recycle paper?

## Linked Activities

- Keep a home waste journal over a week so that it becomes clear what kind of waste is produced at home.
- Imagine that you work for an advertising agency and are asked to promote recycling at home. Write slogans to be printed on refrigerator magnets to be given out in your area.
- Find out why certain components of household waste are less likely to be recycled than others. e.g. why only 4% of clothing and textiles?

## More Information

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