



## Starter Activities and 5 minute fillers

These activities link to the Powerpoint (Waste Starters) available online.

### Section 1 – Thinking about the world

Resources needed:

- Powerpoint/Smartboard resource

This section of the Powerpoint aims to ask KS2 children to think about their role in the world and can be used as a prompt for discussion or quiet contemplation.

### Section 2 - Rubbish jokes – a week's worth of rubbish(!) jokes to act as starters in your classroom.

Resources needed:

- Powerpoint/Smartboard resource

Doctor, Doctor everyone keeps throwing me in the garbage. Don't talk rubbish!

If you crossed a gangster and a garbage man, what would you have?  
Organised grime (crime).

I recently asked a friend, 'Has your son decided what he wants to be when he grows up?'

'Yes, he's very lazy and wants to be a bin man', my friend replied.

I had to think about that one for a moment. 'That's a rather strange thing to say,' I finally managed to reply, as I know how hard bin men work.

'Well,' said the boy's father, 'he thinks that bin men only work on Tuesdays'.

Surrealist bin – This is not a bin on a picture of a bin

### Section 3 - Starter Games

List of Rubbish/Waste words: Biodegradable; Aluminium; Cork; Packaging; Energy from waste; Compost; Reuse; Charity; Squash; Waste; Landfill; Fly tipping; Plastic; Bringbank; Reduce; Recycle; zero-waste lifestyle; ocean plastics.

List of Sustainability words: Resource management; Sustainable development; Climate change; Global warming; Greenhouse gas; Ozone layer; Pollution; Life cycle analysis; Renewable energy; Sweatshop; Carbon footprint; Organic; Globalisation;



Fairtrade; Rio Earth summit; Deforestation; Ecosystem; Biodiversity; Environmental footprint; Species extinction.

1. Green, Green, Green (played with rubbish or sustainability topic words)

Resources needed: none

1. Sit the children in a circle.
2. Choose a Rubbish or Sustainability topic word from the word bank.
3. Choose one person to stand in the centre of the circle and one to stand outside.
4. They repeat their word three times
5. The person around the outside of the circle who is the orange, must interrupt by shouting the word green, before the other person has managed to say it three times.
6. If they interrupt successfully the person in the middle chooses another word.
7. If they are not quick enough they replace the person in the middle.

This is a fun game and encourages the children to concentrate and tests their reactions. It can be used as a time filler or a warm up to a circle time session.

2. Hangman

Resources needed:

- Smartboard or Whiteboard

Play hangman using your sustainability or waste topic words.

3. Question of the Day

Resources needed:

- Smartboard
- Rough paper on which the children can write their answers
- Question of the Day (QOTD) Answer box where the answers can be posted

There are two ways of carrying out this activity:

- 1) Display a screen in SMART with today's question. Return to the page whenever there is a minute to fill.
- 2) Use the Powerpoint provided – you can add your own waste questions

Another version of Question of the Day:

Write a yes/no question at the top of a piece of paper and attach it to a clip board. I choose one child to ask the question to each child in the room during centers. The child uses a tally system to record the other children's answers and adds the total



yes and no responses. Review the question and answers at the end of the day and discuss the outcome.

4. Memory Game

Divide the class in to two, three or four groups.

Show the Powerpoint/Smartboard collection of pictures. Call one group to watch, give them 3 minutes then tell them to sit together at the one of the class corner and write all of the things on the paper. Do this with other groups too.

The teacher should give time to the pupils, either five or seven minutes, then collect the papers and make a collection together with pupils. This is a great way to encourage the children to co-operate and builds team spirit, as well as showing pictures connected with the topic.

5. Splat

You need: 2 flyswatters and a Smartboard

Using the Smartboard resource attached display the pictures and ask for 2 volunteers. Ask questions with the answer that is one of the pictures and the volunteers "splat" the correct answer with their flyswatters.

6. SLAM!

Using the Smartboard or Powerpoint resource attached display the waste related questions you would like to ask and write down the answers on the board randomly. When the session starts, chose two children to stand either side of the board. Ask the question and children need to slam their hand on the correct answer. Whoever gets it correct gets a point and the first to five wins. The losing child returns to their seat and a new competitor is chosen. The first child to win three complete games is the SLAM Champion!

7. Waste Definitions

Write five waste related words on the board. Pupils to look up and write down the definitions as quickly as possible. There could be a prize for the quickest child. Bonus points could be given if sentences are written using the word correctly.

8. Waste 8 (Hangman) –

Bring the classic game up to date by using the Smartboard digital 8 figure instead of a hangman. Focus on some of the words that are related to waste and remove a line per incorrect answer. Who will beat the waste 8!

9. 3Rs Noughts and Crosses

Draw a noughts and crosses grid on the board and number each box 1 – 9.

Now, divide the children into two teams and label the teams either 'noughts' or 'crosses'. Each team has to answer a waste related question correctly before they can place their symbol into an appropriate place on

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

[Type here]

the board. The winning team is the one who gets a line of three of their symbols on the board.

Questions could include:

- what are the 3Rs?
- In what order should the 3Rs be?
- Where does our rubbish go?
- What does Reduce, Reuse, Recycle mean?
- Name one problem with landfill? (this can be asked more than once)
- Name one thing we can do to Reduce/Reuse? (this can be asked more than once)
- What does EfW stand for?
- What happens to our waste when it enters the EfW facility?

#### 10. 20 questions

Think of a word relating to waste and the 3Rs (these could be taken from the list of sustainability or waste words on the Powerpoint) The class asks up to 20 yes/no questions to try to identify the correct word.

#### 11. Pictionary

Think of a word relating to waste and the 3Rs (see glossary for suggestions), then without using symbols, letters or numbers, pupils should draw clues to describe the word.

#### 12. Charades

Think of a word relating to waste and the 3Rs (see glossary for suggestions), then, without speaking, act out the word for the class. The class could be divided into teams to add an element of competition!

#### 13. Ball Pass 're' Words

Pass a soft ball or bean bag around the class shouting out 're' words after each pass.

#### 14. Magic Wand

Give the pupil a magic wand which can change three things in your school related to waste and the environment. Which three things would you change and why?

#### 15. Round the 3Rs alphabet

Challenge the class to go through the alphabet A – Z and relate all words to waste.



## Section 4 – Using videos and songs

See our Youtube channel for lots more videos and songs:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5GLQ89DvLENuvYXHkx41vQ>

## Glossary

**waste** – any unwanted item

**rubbish** – waste items; refuse or litter

**reduce** – make less of; specifically, to make less waste

**reuse** – use an item over again

**recycle** – convert waste into reusable items

**resources** – the planet's reserves of minerals, land and other natural assets

**Energy from Waste (EfW)** – the process of burning non-recycled waste at very high temperatures (over 850°C) to generate electricity, and potentially heat, for local housing and industry

**recover** – waste being processed in a useful way, in the case of EfW, to provide heat and power

**landfill site** – the name of the area of land where waste has been buried for disposal

**methane** – a gas which is produced from rotting organic materials in a landfill site. This is a greenhouse gas, which contributes to climate change.

**leachate** – a dark coloured liquid, which is produced when rainwater filters through the rubbish in a landfill site, and from rotting organic material such as food waste. This needs to be carefully managed to keep it out of rivers and streams

**climate change** – a change in global or regional climate patterns, in particular, a change apparent from the mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century onwards and attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels

**global warming** – a gradual increase in the overall temperature of the earth's atmosphere generally attributed to the greenhouse effect caused by increased levels of carbon dioxide, CFCs and other pollutants.

**mining** – the extraction of ore from the ground, often through the use of explosives

**WEEE** – Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment. An item is classed as being WEEE if it needs electricity to do what it intended to do. NB. The electricity can come from a battery source

**small WEEE** – smaller electrical goods, eg, toaster, hairdryer, iron, kettle

**large WEEE** – large electrical goods, eg, cooker, washing machine



Don't let Devon go to waste  
**at school**

### List of Sustainability Words

- Resource management
- Sustainable development
- Climate change
- Global warming
- Greenhouse gas
- Ozone layer
- Pollution
- Life cycle analysis
- Renewable energy
- Sweatshop
- Carbon footprint
- Organic
- Globalisation
- Fairtrade
- Rio Earth summit
- Deforestation
- Ecosystem
- Biodiversity
- Environmental footprint
- Species extinction

### List of Waste Words

- Reduce;
- Reuse;
- Recycle;
- Biodegradable;
- Compostable;
- Aluminium;
- Packaging;
- Energy from waste;
- Compost;
- Squash;
- Waste;
- Textiles
- Landfill site;
- Plastic;
- Zero-waste lifestyle;
- Plastic pollution;
- Ocean plastics.