

KEY STAGE 2 ACTIVITIES

SPIN THE BOTTLE RECYCLING GAME

Length of Session

1 hour

Group Size

Whole class or small groups

Aims

- To discuss what can and can't be recycled in Suffolk
 - To discuss how choices we make have an impact
 - To discuss the importance of waste disposal on the environment
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Summary of Activity

Collect a selection of materials that can be reused and recycled itemised below and attach the questions to each item (see resource sheet). Put the items into a bag and save a plastic bottle for spinning.

Sit in a circle and take turns to spin the bottle. The person who is sitting where the bottle points selects an item from the bag and reads out the label and asks the group the question.

Encourage the children to come up with their thoughts and answers. Prompt if necessary.

Then share the answers provided below if not covered.

Useful starting questions & answers

Plastic bottle

Q: You buy a drink in a plastic bottle in town – what should you do with it?

A: Discuss reuse, recycling on the go (if appropriate), taking a drink in a reusable bottle with you, recycling the bottle at home – don't bin it!

- Recycle fact – 1 recycled plastic bottle would power a bedside lamp for approx 3 hours

Steel Can

Q: Can you recycle these?

A: You most certainly can! Steel can be recycled forever again and again and never deteriorates and uses a lot less energy than using the raw material.

- Recycle fact - 1 recycled tin can would save enough energy to power a television for 3 hours.

Textiles

Q: What about old clothes – what can you do with them?

A: All sorts of things! Hand me downs, charity shops, organise a uniform exchange/clothes swap at school?

Glass

Q: Where should you recycle it?

A: At a bottle bank or Recycling Centre or better still reuse it!– make jam, chutneys etc, make a lantern (cover with a tissue paper design to show the light through). If you recycle it don't forget you can leave the metal lids on.

- Recycle fact - 1 recycled glass bottle would save enough energy to power a computer for 25 minutes.

Cartons (or Tetra Pak)

Q: Do you use these at home? (Can ask for show of hands)

Can you recycle them in your recycling bin at home?

A: No, you can recycle at your local recycling centre but not in your recycling bin at home. Wash, squash and store them up until you go!

Plastic Bags

Q: Can you put these in your recycling bin? Where can you recycle them?

Are they dangerous for wildlife?

Points out of 10 for the environment?

A: NO! But you can recycle them along with plastic film at some large supermarkets. They get caught in the machinery at the recycling plant so we can't accept them in our recycling bins.

Talk about best practice – reusable bags – when shopping. Say no thanks to carrier bags – or at least try to only come home with 1 bag rather than several. Bad for environment- discuss issues relating to wildlife, especially marine life. Ask the children to award marks out of ten for the environment for carrier bags- it's not good!

Yoghurt pot

Q: You have had a yoghurt in your packed lunch at school- can you recycle these at school- what should you do if not?

A: Recycling at school might be difficult because of cleaning after lunch – so might be best to take it home to recycle. Discuss importance of clean and dry recycling.

Extend the discussion to all medium density plastics – what other plastics can we recycle at home - how many can you think of? Food trays, meat trays etc.

Discuss preventing waste – Buy a big pot of yogurt and decant into reusable tubs. See our Suffolk Recycles plastic webpage for more information: <https://suffolkrecycling.org.uk/reduce-reuse/plastic-waste>

Crisp packet

Q: What about these – can you recycle them? Points out of ten for the environment?

A: NO! Ask why? Plastic combined with foil can't be recycled. What can you do to make less waste – Do you eat crisps every day? – can you have them twice a week instead....? Ask the children to award a mark out of ten for the environment for crisp packets.

Batteries

Q: Can you recycle these in your recycling bin at home?
What should you do with them?

A: Can recycle at Recycling Centres and at large retailers – do you know anywhere else near where you live?
(might be local scheme – schools etc) Discuss alternatives to batteries – rechargeable batteries - designing out waste more sustainable option.

Food Waste

Q: How can we recycle food waste at home and at school?
How can we reduce food waste?

A: Discuss various options for recovering food waste.....compost, wormeries, bokashi, council schemes etc.....

How can we avoid making food waste in the first place?

[The Food Savvy website](#) – top tips, getting right size portions, checking the fridge, freezing food, avoiding unwanted offers when shopping etc.

- Fact: about one third of our rubbish bin in Suffolk is made of food waste. Shocking! Can you help us reduce this terrible waste?