

J1

Introduction to Recycling



RECYCLING – THE FACTS



A) True or False?

1. The USA uses 10 million tons of paper per year.

Answer:

2. Every day, American businesses use enough paper to circle the earth 20 times.

Answer:

3. Plastic bags and other plastic rubbish thrown into the ocean kill as many as 1 million sea creatures every year.

Answer:

4. Each UK household produces half a ton of rubbish per year.

Answer:

5. In the year 2000, the UK consumed 5 billion aluminium drinks cans, of which 75% were recycled.

Answer:

B) List 3 reasons why we should recycle more products:

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J1

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RECYCLING – THE FACTS ANSWERS



A) Recycling Facts – True or False?

1. The USA uses 10 million tones of paper per year.

Answer: **False** – The USA uses over 67 million tons of paper per year.

2. Every day, American businesses use enough paper to circle the earth 20 times.

Answer: **True**

3. Plastic bags and other plastic rubbish thrown into the ocean kill as many as 1 million sea creatures every year.

Answer: **True**

4. Each UK household produces half a ton of rubbish per year.

Answer: **False** – each UK household produces over 1 ton of rubbish per year, amounting to about 31 million tons for the UK each year.

5. In 2000 the UK consumed 5 billion aluminium drinks cans, of which 75% were recycled.

Answer: **False** – Less than half of aluminium cans in the UK are recycled.

B) Why Recycle – five possible reasons:

- Recycling conserves our valuable natural resources.
- Recycling saves energy.
- Recycling saves clean air and clean water.
- Recycling saves landfill space.
- Recycling can save money and create jobs.

J1

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WHY DO WE RECYCLE?

Each household produces about one ton of rubbish annually, amounting to approximately 27 million tons for the UK each year. That equals the weight of about 2.7 million Diplodocus, around the same number of people who live in the Greater Manchester area!

The amount of rubbish we throw away is increasing for a number of reasons:

- new packaging materials and technology are being developed
- lifestyle changes, for example a greater reliance on convenience/fast food
- increasing affluence, leading to greater consumption of goods
- increasing population

Today's rubbish compared to pre-1960s rubbish, contains more products that don't break down when they're put in the ground. Packaging waste makes up about a quarter of all the rubbish you put in your bin, most of this could be recycled.

We need to increase the amount of rubbish that is recycled because we cannot carry on burying and burning rubbish forever. This is recognised by the government who are thinking of ways we can reduce the amount of rubbish we produce and increase the amount we reuse and recycle.

However, these changes will not happen overnight. To increase recycling we need to:

- collect more rubbish in recycling bins and on doorsteps ready to be recycled
- build more recycling plants
- educate people about recycling
- make sure there are enough rubbish trucks to collect the recyclable rubbish
- find ways of using the recycled material by making it into useful items. Did you know some fleece jackets are made from recycled plastic bottles?

J1

Visit to a Local Supermarket

SUPERMARKET CHALLENGE

Name/Group: _____

TASK 1

Shopping List	How many types of packaging are there? What are they made from?	Is the packaging made from recycled material?	Can the packaging be easily recycled in the future?
2 pints of fresh milk			
Bottle of tomato ketchup			
Bag of multi-pack crisps			
Pack of spaghetti			
Tin of cat food			
Bunch of bananas			
Pack of batteries			
Can of deodorant			
Jar of marmalade			
Carton of orange juice			
Packet of sandwiches			
Box of tissues			

TASK 2

Are there any customer recycling facilities at the supermarket?	Supermarkets produce a high amount of cardboard and plastic waste. How do they recycle it? <i>You may want to ask a staff member!</i>	Is there any litter outside the store? (e.g. plastic bags, newspaper etc.) What damage could any litter do to the local environment?	What could the supermarket do to reduce the amount of waste and litter outside the store?