

Why Recycle?

The average UK household produces more than a tonne of rubbish every year. Much of this waste could be recycled, but less than 50% of household waste is currently recycled in the UK. This text explains why waste is bad for the environment and why we all need to recycle more.

First let's think about waste: Waste is created when people throw things away because they no longer need or want them. This could be anything — an empty food container, a mobile phone or an old sofa.

5 When we throw things away we are losing the natural resources and the energy that was used to manufacture them. Most of these natural resources cannot be replaced — for example the rocks from which metals are mined.

So if we keep on using and throwing away resources in this way eventually they will run out.

When we throw things away we are also making an impact on the environment — the waste, or rubbish, has to go somewhere. In the UK most waste is either buried in landfill sites or burned.

10 It is important for everyone, not just in this country but around the world, to live 'sustainably' — in other words make the best use of our natural resources so that we preserve them for future generations. This means using fewer resources, making products that last longer and making sure that everything we do doesn't have a negative impact on the environment.

15 So, rather than just throwing things away we need to be a bit smarter about what we do with our unwanted things!

Recycling is one way in which we can contribute towards sustainability. Recycling means turning waste products into raw materials to make new products.

Many of the materials used to make our food packaging, mobile phones and furniture can be reused, or recycled into new products.

20 For example mobile phones can be taken apart and some of the components used in new phones or other electronic equipment. There are some companies that will send 'old' mobile phones from this country to other parts of the world where they can be reused as they are.

Using our example of the unwanted sofa: the fabric, the wooden frame and the metal springs are all made of materials that can be recycled into new products.

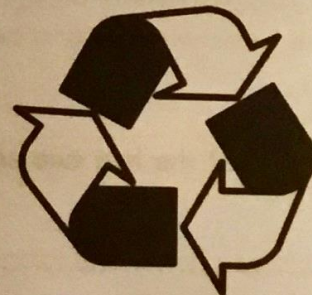
25

Summary:

Recycling makes sense because:

- It saves natural resources
- It saves energy
- It reduces waste
- It reduces the need for landfill

30



From www.thinkcans.net

- 1** Give two reasons why we should try to avoid throwing things away.

.....

.....

2 marks

- 2** What happens to most waste in the UK?

.....

1 mark

- 3** In your own words, summarise the information in lines 10-13.

.....

.....

1 mark

- 4** What is the difference between recycling and reusing?

.....

.....

2 marks

- 5** Do you think the summary in lines 25-30 is useful? Explain your answer.

.....

.....

1 mark

- 6** What do you think the purpose of this text is?

.....

1 mark

- 7** This text uses the first person plural, "we". What effect does this have on the reader?

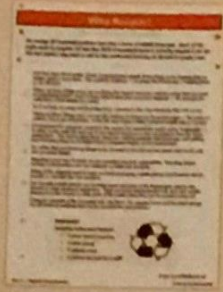
.....

.....

2 marks

Total
out of 10

Why Recycle?



Question Book:

Year 5, pages 6-7

Author / Source:

www.thinkcans.net

Genre:

Non-fiction — persuasive text

Cross-curricular links:

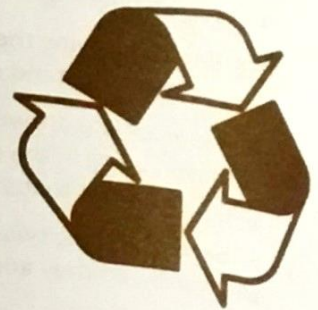
- PSHE (recycling)
- Science (pollution)
- Maths (statistics)

Introduction

In the last 15 years, levels of recycling in the UK have increased significantly, but the average UK household still recycles less than 50% of its waste. Waste that isn't recycled is either sent to landfill or incinerated, both of which have serious environmental consequences. This text explains how waste damages the environment and how recycling can help to reduce levels of waste. Before pupils read the text, ask them whether they think recycling is important and what they recycle at home and at school.

Answers

1. E.g. Because it wastes natural resources, and it damages the environment.
2. It is buried in landfill sites or burned.
3. E.g. Everyone should try to live in a way that uses as few natural resources as possible so that there are enough left for people in the future.
4. E.g. When something is recycled, it's broken down and turned into new products, but when something is reused, it's used again as it is.
5. Any appropriate answer. E.g. Yes, because it lists the most important points in the article, which helps you to remember them.
6. E.g. To persuade people to recycle more.
7. E.g. It makes the text seem more personal, so the reader is more likely to be persuaded by the text because they feel like they are involved in doing the things it describes.



Extra Activities

- Ask pupils to explain whether reading the text has affected their views on recycling. If they didn't think recycling was important, has reading the text changed their view? Why / why not? If they already regarded recycling as important, has the text given them a better understanding of why it matters?
- Discuss pupils' answers to questions 5-7 in the Question Book. How do techniques like the summary and the use of the first person plural help to achieve the purpose of the text? What other techniques has the writer used to make the text informative and persuasive? Can pupils think of any ways to improve the language or layout of the text to make it more informative and persuasive?
- Ask pupils to research the ecological impact of waste plastic, including the accumulation of plastic in oceans (e.g. the great Pacific garbage patch) and its impact on marine wildlife. Pupils should use their research to create a poster that will inform people about the ecological damage caused by plastic and persuade them to reduce the amount of plastic they use.
- Get pupils to weigh the waste and recycling produced by their class and other classes every day for a week, and calculate a daily average for each class. They can then use their findings to draw bar graphs showing which class produces the most waste and which does the most recycling.