

Resources and Waste

All the things we have are made from resources.

How can we make the best use of our stuff?

How can we tackle the problem of waste? What do you know about reducing, reusing and recycling?

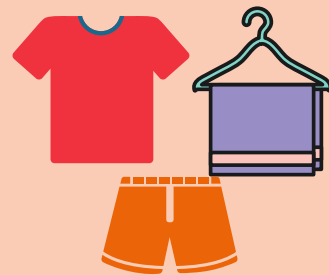
Resources

Resources are the materials that we take from the earth to make other things (bottles, bags, clothes, TVs...),

but how long does it take the earth to make them again?

COTTON

1
year



WOOD

20-100
years



OIL

1,000,000
years!



Resources: What can **you** Reuse?



If we can use old things to make new things, then we don't have to use more resources : we **reuse** them.

Think of 3 things in your house which you can reuse. The object could have a new, practical use or even be used in an art project. An example has been done for you - see how to make your own bird feeder on the next page!

yoghurt pot



bird feeder





Make a Bird Feeder



Encourage birds to come to your garden by making a bird feeder. Birds need plenty to eat in the cold winter months and using an old yoghurt pot is just one example of reusing!

You will need:

an empty yoghurt pot (or other old plastic container)
scissors (ask an adult for help)
string
leftover food



1. Make sure your yoghurt pot is clean and dry.
2. Make a small hole in the bottom with the scissors.
3. Put the string through the hole and tie a knot under the bottom of the pot to stop the string coming back through.
4. You can use dried fruit, cheese and cooked rice to fill the pot. The birds will love seeds, nuts and porridge oats too!
5. Tie your pot to the branch of a tree. Can you identify any of the birds that come to eat?

If you are interested in animals there are some activities about the animal kingdom on our website!



Reduce Reuse Recycle



These 3 'R's show what we can do to tackle our waste problem...

But why in that order?

REDUCE is better than **REUSE**, **REUSE** is better than **RECYCLE**
...and all are better than throwing stuff away!

Why? It is because of another R : **RESOURCES!**

All of our stuff uses up limited resources to make it:

MATERIALS + ENERGY + LABOUR + TIME



Why is reduce the most important of the 3 'R's (see answer on next page)?

Why do you think it is better to reuse a jar rather than recycle it (see answer on next page)?

Can you think of 3 things that you can recycle?

What could you reuse them for instead?

Recycle

Reuse

1. _____ → 1. _____

2. _____ → 2. _____

3. _____ → 3. _____

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Why is reduce the most important of the 3 'R's?

Reduce is the most important of the 3 because it means that we don't use up Earth's resources in the first place. It means that we buy less stuff. Therefore fewer things are made and fewer natural resources are used. Reducing is also easy to do because it doesn't require time, labour or energy. Just think - if you don't buy stuff you don't need, you could save a lot of the planet's resources (e.g. forests). This is good news for wildlife and means less pollution as well! Reusing and recycling are important, but they don't save Earth's resources as much as reducing does.

Why do you think it is better to reuse a jar rather than recycle it?

Reusing the jar won't cause pollution. Recycling causes some pollution because we use *energy* to make the object into something else. The object (in this case the jar) would have to be smashed or melted or both. We also save money by reusing the jar - for example if we use it as a pencil holder, it means we don't have to go and buy a new container for pencils. Reusing is also more fun - we can decorate or change the reused item however we choose!



Let's Tackle Waste!



Can you help Wasteful Walter? He keeps buying things that he doesn't really need...like the T-shirts in his wardrobe that he still hasn't worn...or the food in his fridge that he forgets about and has to throw out! He's also not sure which materials we can recycle and which we can't. Walter has heard that we are using up too many of Earth's resources and wants to change. He would like to learn more about reducing, reusing and recycling. There are many other people like Walter. Using the space below, design a poster which shows how we can tackle the problem of waste!