

Teachers' Treasures

Resources from the Story Treasures schools' programme

Cross Curricular Resources:

Each term we'll be providing some extra cross-curricular resources to hopefully help your students engage with some new topics on the curriculum!

This term's theme: Sustainability and Recycling!

We believe that drama and creative activities can enhance cross-curricular learning by fostering critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration, which support and enrich understanding in other areas of the curriculum

Key Stage 1 Curriculum Areas

Science:

Materials and Recycling: Students learn about different materials and their properties, including which materials can be recycled.

Living Things and Their Habitats: Understanding how living things depend on their environment and the importance of caring for habitats.

Geography:

Human and Physical Geography: Introducing basic concepts of sustainability, such as how human activities affect the environment.

Local Area Studies: Exploring local environments and discussing how to protect and improve them.

Learning Outcomes



create awareness and understanding surrounding the topic of recycling.



to educate students about how to recycle.



to introduce the topic through practical and interactive ways.

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**To ensure lots of different learners can
engage this plan contains:**

**Visual Aids * Auditory Elements
Kinesthetic Activities * Logical Reasoning
Interpersonal Interaction
Intrapersonal Reflection * Naturalistic Elements
Active Listening**

Crafted with a sprinkle of
imagination by



You will need:

- o Fishes (preferably not plastic ones)
- o Household items, both recyclable and non-recyclable (examples: banana peel, paper towel, apple core, newspaper, plastic bottle and carrier bag. Again, try to avoid plastic versions to avoid confusion).
- o A plastic recycling bin or container.
- o A piece of instrumental music for Activity 2 (preferably some music that starts calmly to describe calm seas, and then becomes more chaotic, to describe the build-up of plastic).

Warm Up

Warm-up activities are great for getting the group energised, focused, and ready to learn! This warm up in particular gets the children into the topic and builds the skills they need for the later activities.

Fizzy Plastic Bottle

Students stand in a circle, and they are told that they have become a bottle of fizzy water / fizzy pop!

They change the shape of their bodies to show what this might look like. Now it's time to get fizzed up!

The teacher counts to 10 and the students must jump up and down on the spot for all 10 counts. Another count of 10 and they run on the spot, and finally, any other movement that the teacher or students suggest for the count of 10 to get them really fizzy!

After warming up the body in this way, the teacher then goes around the circle, pretending to take the tops off their bottles.

Once they have done this, the student must pretend that the fizzy water / fizzy pop is bursting out of the bottle (moving all of the parts of the body as if 'fizzing'). They can also make a 'fizzzzzzzzzz' sound (holding onto the 'zzzzz' sound as they move).

The teacher can give prompts if necessary, such as the arms, legs, feet, shoulders and head. To warm down the teacher then counts down from 10 and the fizzy water starts to reduce in fizziness so that the students are back to neutral by 1, now an empty bottle.

Repeat if necessary for clarification and to extend the physical warm up and cool down.

The Aim:

Physical Warm-up

Vocal warm-up

Introducing the topic

Enhance imagination

Practice following instructions

Top tip!
Add
questions

If you want to get the students more engaged, why not ask what colour their bottle is, what is in their bottle?



Activities

As with our sessions we've used the Story Suitcase to lead into our main activities, this helps create an atmosphere of excitement and curiosity! What is inside? First remove only the household items (see resource list) and display so the children can see.

Spot the Difference

The teacher gives the students 5 seconds to remember as many things in the pile as possible, before they all have to close their eyes.

The teacher then removes one item that is easier to recycle (e.g. the banana skin) and then ask the children to open their eyes. What do they notice has changed in the pile?

Once they have guessed, repeat the exercise, removing the items that decompose easier / quicker, leaving the plastic items at the end.

Explain that these items are still there because plastic stays on the planet for a long time if it isn't recycled.

This activity explores the topic further, enhances observation and participation skills!

The Life of a Plastic Bottle

Following on from Activity 1, the teacher explains that the class are going to go on the journey of a plastic bottle, starting with it being made in the bottle factory, as follows:

Bottle Factory

The children become a bottle, similar to the warm-up, and move along the conveyer belt.



The Shop

The teacher mentions the next stage of the journey is to the shop shelves. The students stand as bottles on the shelf. The teacher could also play a customer buying a bottle!



The Street

The teacher explains that the bottles disposed of in the bin or on the streets can get carried into the rivers and ocean by the wind or rainfall. The children respond to this by moving around.



The Ocean

The teacher can describe the ocean, initially talking about clear waters but as they move the children into the 'ocean' it becomes more and more packed with plastic, making the space smaller and difficult to move

Additional sounds could be used to enhance the atmosphere - maybe the sounds of the factory!

Play the instrumental music during this part

Top tip!
Rewrite the ending

Teachers could explore different areas, or even close by rewriting the ending - what should have happened to the bottles? Could they end by being crumpled into the recycling? Could they be made into other items?

Activities

Reading of The Odd Fish by Naomi Jones and James Jones



After Activity 2, the teacher moves the suitcase, but shakes it and notices that there is something still in the suitcase. They tell the students and then open the case to reveal the fish first, and then the book (see the resources list) which the teacher reads to the students. The teacher can show the images in the book for extra information and to engage the students.

Reflection and Close – Time to Recycle!



Finally, after Activity 3, tell the children that we need to recycle our plastic, and put the plastic from the resources / suitcase into the recycling bin / container (from the resources list).

Ideas for Older Classes

Activity Idea : The Plastic Bottle becomes...

Explain the different items that plastic can be recycled into (for example, garden furniture, wheelie bins, clothing etc.) and, in a circle, pass around a plastic bottle and each student mimes making the plastic bottle into something else. They shouldn't tell us what it is but show us through movement and sounds what the item has now become. The rest of the circle has to guess what the plastic bottle has been recycled into.

Great for:

exploring and learning about the topic of recycling
enhancing imagination and creative skills,
enhancing confidence skills, and independent thinking

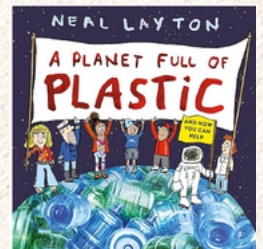
Activity Idea : Where does it go?

In groups students are separated into different recyclable materials. They research (or are given information) what happens to these materials to make them reusable and what they might become. They use this knowledge to create a way of informing others about this - this could be a poem, a performance, a poster or even a song!

Book recommendation

A Planet full of Plastic explains where plastic comes from, why it doesn't biodegrade, and why that's dangerous for animals and humans alike. But he's also FULL of ideas for how you can help; from giving up straws in juice cartons to recycling, and taking part in a beach clean! A Planet Full of Plastic will get young readers excited about how they can make a difference to keep Planet Earth happy.

A Planet Full of Plastic by Neal Layton (Wren and Rook, 2019)



All of the information and facts learned through the activities can be extended, with students working on ways of consolidating their learning in writing and creative activities. They could write a story from the perspective of the piece of rubbish, or create a mural as a class about the process of recycling!

Have questions and want to know more about this resource?

Or have any topics we might help inspire you to navigate?

Contact education@newvictheatre.org.uk