

# Be a Recycling Star- An introduction to Recycling

**Recommended Key Stage:** 1 and 2

**Recommended group size:** 6- 30 children

**Duration:** 1 hour

**Overview:** Recycling is easy when you know how! Introduce the concept of recycling, why it is important do so and how to recycle in Test Valley. Test your knowledge through a variety of games and activities and find out how to spread the recycling message to all.

## Learning Objectives:

- ★ Understand what happens to the things we throw away and introduce the concept of recycling
- ★ To explore what recycling means and why it is an important option for dealing with waste
- ★ Introduce the concept of the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)
- ★ Understand how we recycle in Test Valley
- ★ Introduce the concept of lifecycles and what happens to things once they have been recycled
- ★ Understand the importance of sharing good recycling practices

## Key Vocabulary:

Reduce  
Reuse  
Recycle  
Waste  
Rubbish  
Brown Bin  
Black Bin  
Incinerator  
Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)  
Local Recycling Centre  
Composting

## Curriculum Links:

### Science- Materials and their properties

- ★ Sorting objects into groups by properties
- ★ Recognise and name common materials (metal, wood, plastic, paper) and that some are found naturally
- ★ The role of decomposition in recycling

### Geography- Knowledge and understanding of environmental change and sustainable development

### Citizenship- Preparing to play an active role as citizens

- ★ Research, debate and discuss topical issues
- ★ How to look after and improve their local environment.

### Design and Technology- Evaluating processes and products

- ★ Recognise how the quality of a product depends upon its properties, characteristics and how it has been manipulated.

## Preparation:

- ★ The activities are spread over 4 stations and require 4- 5 tables
- ★ The Compost Challenge can be conducted in a carpet space or reading corner
- ★ Children will need to be split into 4 equal sized groups
- ★ We require 2-3 members of staff to be present to manage each station or move round with each group- instructions will be provided for each activity
- ★ The Recycling Stars team require 10-15 minutes to set up the activities. It is preferable that this is conducted whilst children are out of the classroom.

## Resources provided by Test Valley

### Borough Council:

- ★ Activity Carousel
- ★ Recycling resources
- ★ Recycling Stars activity sheets
- ★ Recycling Stars pledge cards

## Resources to be provided by school:

- ★ Pencils / pens
- ★ Colouring pencils

## Resources to be provided by the children:

- ★ None

## Outline of activities:

### Introduction to recycling

- ★ Find out what recycling means and why we recycle.
- ★ Explain how we recycle in Test Valley- Brown Bin and Local Recycling Centres
- ★ Explain what can be disposed of as recycling in Test Valley and what must be disposed of as waste.

#### ★ Game

Place pictures around the room of a black bin, brown bin and local recycling centre. Pull items out of a bag and ask children to move and stand in front of the picture that best depicts how the item should be disposed of.

### Activity Carousel

Work in groups of 6-8 children to move round the activity stations.

#### Activity 1- Run a Recycling Centre

- ★ Explain, with the help of large laminated images, what happens to recycling once it has been collected from the home.
- ★ Stand children around the conveyor belt, designating each child with a specific item to collect.
- ★ Ask 1 child to turn the conveyor belt steadily whilst adding items to the belt
- ★ Children who are collecting should carefully take items off the conveyor belt and put them into their bucket.
- ★ Once 1 cycle is completed, look through buckets to see which items went into the correct buckets and discuss items that were not put into the correct buckets.
- ★ Repeat the activity to see if they can sort everything correctly.

## Timings:

**5 minutes**

**10 - 15 minutes per activity**

<p><b>Activity 2- What am I made from?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Explain to children that recycling does not always mean turning something into a new version of what it originally was i.e. a can does not always become another can.</li> <li>★ Ask children to walk around both tables and see what items they can see and what the pictures show</li> <li>★ Invite children to pick the items up and inspect them <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Encourage children to consider the properties of the items</li> <li>★ Point out things like weight, colour, shape, texture</li> <li>★ Are there any obvious identifying features e.g. logos, patterns, colours etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>★ Children can take it in turns to choose an item and place it on the corresponding card. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Some children may choose the same card for 2 items</li> <li>★ Get children to briefly explain their decision</li> </ul> </li> <li>★ Turn cards over to find answers and discuss ideas as answers are revealed</li> </ul> <p><b>Activity 3- Recycling Bingo</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Children can work in pairs at each board</li> <li>★ To play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ The caller (adult or child) takes cards out of the bucket and reads out what is on it</li> <li>★ Children cover items with the recycling star cards as they are read out.</li> <li>★ The team that completes their board first shouts "BINGO"</li> </ul> </li> <li>★ The boards can be swapped around and repeated</li> <li>★ Ask children if they can see a pattern in the pictures on their board- recycling at home, using Local Recycling Centres, household waste disposal</li> <li>★ Once the activity is exhausted, children can attempt the Recycling Stars Activity Sheet</li> </ul> <p><b>Activity 4- The Compost Challenge</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Using the accompanying fact sheet, talk to children about what composting is and how it works <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Talk about the properties of things that can and cannot be composted</li> <li>★ Talk about how and why certain items cannot be composted- meat, fish, cooked food</li> </ul> </li> <li>★ Children can take it in turns to choose cards and stick them to the board under "Yes, I can be composted" or "No, I cannot be composted."</li> <li>★ Share and discuss the answers</li> <li>★ Once activity is exhausted, children can take a pledge card and think about 1 thing they can do to help Recycling Star. Children can also continue/ begin the Recycling Stars Activity Sheet</li> </ul> <p><b>Plenary Activity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Check children's learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ List everything that can be put in the brown recycling bin</li> <li>★ List things that should go to a local recycling centre</li> <li>★ List things that should go in the black bin</li> </ul> </li> <li>★ Ask some children to read out what they are going to do to help Recycling Star</li> </ul>	<p><b>Activities 3 and 4 can be run together or separately depending on group size.</b></p> <p><b>5–10 minutes</b></p>
<p><b>Follow up activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Write a letter, a poem or design a recycling poster that can be shared with the school or taken home to help others recycle more and waste less too.</li> <li>★ Write a diary about how they have helped recycle at home, reporting back to class.</li> <li>★ Ask each child to try and fulfil their pledge and report back to the class how they have done so</li> <li>★ Locate and visit a Local Recycling Centre near school and encourage the school community to use it.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>External links and information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Recycling in Test Valley. Download our comprehensive recycling guide <a href="http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/wasteandrecycling/recycling/cannot-recycle-test-valley">here</a>.</li> <li>★ Local Recycling Centres <a href="http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/wasteandrecycling/recycling/local-recycling-centres">www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/wasteandrecycling/recycling/local-recycling-centres</a></li> <li>★ Home Composting <a href="http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/wasteandrecycling/recycling/homecomposting">www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/wasteandrecycling/recycling/homecomposting</a></li> <li>★ Waste processing and disposal <a href="http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/wasteandrecycling/waste-processing-disposal">www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/wasteandrecycling/waste-processing-disposal</a></li> <li>★ Recycling Locator- find out where you can recycle certain items <a href="http://www.recyclenow.com/local-recycling">www.recyclenow.com/local-recycling</a></li> <li>★ How recycling is processed- information about the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) where recycling is sorted <a href="http://www.veolia.co.uk/hampshire/materials-recovery/materials-recovery/alton-mrf">www.veolia.co.uk/hampshire/materials-recovery/materials-recovery/alton-mrf</a></li> <li>★ How energy is recovered from incinerating household waste including a video of the process in Hampshire <a href="http://www.veolia.co.uk/hampshire/energy-recovery/energy-recovery/how-does-it-work">www.veolia.co.uk/hampshire/energy-recovery/energy-recovery/how-does-it-work</a> <a href="http://www.veolia.co.uk/hampshire/energy-recovery/energy-recovery/energy-waste-process">www.veolia.co.uk/hampshire/energy-recovery/energy-recovery/energy-waste-process</a></li> </ul>	