

What's in our bin? (KS2)

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this session pupils should have learnt:

- That many different materials are thrown away at school
- How to reduce the amount of waste thrown in the bin

Learning Outcomes:

Pupils will be able to:

- Identify and classify different materials
- Give examples of waste they can reduce, reuse or recycle

National Curriculum Links:

English KS2:

- En1 Speaking & listening . *speaking, listening, group discussion & interaction*

Maths:

- Ma4 Handling data

Science:

- Materials & their properties . *grouping & classifying materials within an environmental context.*
- QCA Unit 3C: Characteristics of materials

Geography:

- Knowledge and Understanding of environmental change and sustainable development.
- QCA Unit 8: Improving Our Environment

Citizenship & PSHE:

- Preparing to play an active role as citizens . *discuss topical issues, sustainable resource use*

Cross Curricular:

- Education for Sustainable Development
- Sustainable Schools: Doorway 4 . Waste & Purchasing

Resources Needed:

- A days worth of rubbish from the classroom
- Plastic sheeting to cover the tables
- Plastic gloves
- Newton meters
- Plastic bags
- Copies of ~~What's~~ What's in our bin? worksheet (see below)

Activity Guidelines:

1. Weigh all the rubbish as a class and record the total weight.
2. Empty the bag onto a table covered with plastic sheeting and sort the rubbish into the following categories: paper & card, food waste, metals, glass, plastics, textiles and other.
3. Put the different materials into separate plastic bags and weigh using a Newton meter.
4. Children decide if each type of rubbish can be recycled at school and where it could go (e.g. paper recycling bin, compost bin).
5. Discuss ways of reducing or reusing some of the rubbish that cannot be recycled. For example, using a sandwich box instead of sandwich bags, a sports bottle instead of cartons and putting paper which can be reused into a scrap paper tray.
6. Children complete the worksheet and draw a bar graph to show the proportion of waste in each category.
7. Discuss the ideas the children had for reducing the class rubbish and create an action plan for the class.

What's in our bin?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Material	Weight (g)	Can you recycle it at school?	Where would you put it for recycling?
Paper & card			
Food waste			
Metals			
Glass			
Plastics			
Textiles			
Other			
Total weight			

On graph paper draw a bar graph to show the weights of the different materials. Then answer the questions below:

1. How much rubbish would the class throw out in a week?

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2. How much rubbish would the class throw out in a school term?

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3. Which material makes up most of the rubbish?

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4. List 3 different ways the class could reduce its rubbish.

a).....

b).....

c).....