Lesson plan - Waste & recycling

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Prior learning

An understanding of how raw materials are made into objects.

Learning objectives

- To identify a range of common materials and recognise that the same material is used to make different objects.
- Collecting raw materials can damage the environment.
- By re-using or recycling objects we can reduce the amount of waste we produce and reduce the demand for raw materials.

Lesson structure

Introduction

- Ask the class how much they know about materials and what they are made of.
- Get children to create a list of different types of material, e.g. paper, wood, metal, and plastic.

Activity

- Ask children to find 5 objects from around the classroom.
- Instruct them to sort objects into piles based on what material they are made from.
- Children to record their findings in a table, e.g.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper</th>
<th>Cardboard</th>
<th>Wood</th>
<th>Rubber</th>
<th>Metal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Piece of paper</td>
<td>Cereal box</td>
<td>Ruler</td>
<td>Eraser</td>
<td>Paper clip</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ask the children to join up in pairs and repeat the exercise with their 10 objects, each recording the new objects in their table.

In pairs children then rearrange their 10 objects into the raw material they are made of and record results in a new table, e.g.
In pairs children then reorder items into recyclable and non recyclable, e.g.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recyclable</th>
<th>Non-recyclable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Piece of paper</td>
<td>Calculator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cereal box</td>
<td>Toys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper clip</td>
<td>Eraser</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ask class to come up with alternative uses for the objects which can’t be recycled (use the help stop waste and solutions to rubbish sections from our *Mad about waste and recycling* leaflet).

**Extension activity**
Look around the classroom for recycled items and discuss what they were recycled from.

**Plenary**
- Share ideas for alternative uses of the non-recyclable objects.
- Discuss what is already being recycled at school (include items that are re-used).
- Explore the consequences to the environment of collecting raw materials, and what happens to our waste if we don’t re-use or recycle it.

**Follow up session**

**Resources**
*Mad about waste and recycling* leaflet  
Paper  
Pens  
Objects from class

**Key words/vocabulary**
Materials  
Waste  
Recycling  
Raw materials  
Incinerators  
Environment

**Success criteria**
Children will have categorised different types of materials and identified the raw material they came from.