

WASTE INVADERS

RUBBISH

Children need to investigate what rubbish actually is and what happens to it before they can understand the extent of the problem the human race has created for itself and fellow creatures.

Packaging is a good subject to start with.

The population of the developed world is driven by market forces and quite rampant consumerism. We no longer have to catch, grow or make the things that we need or want. Not content with just having a TV, we want the *latest* model. We buy most things ready made and its '*in with the new, out with the old*' for a great many people.

Everything we buy is packaged with other materials, for buyer appeal, protection, and security. We are given more packaging i.e. plastic carrier bags to carry our already over packaged (in most cases) goods. We rarely find our goods broken these days when we open them. What happens to it after we unwrap and use the contents? We have to dispose of it in some way.

Packaging comes in many forms and it is quite an eye opener when we study it in more detail.

Thrown Away – a look at the part of our shopping that can find its way to the green rubbish bin if we don't watch out!

LETS GET IT SORTED

This is a good activity for 5- 8 yr olds. The reception children can learn to identify and sort different materials and be introduced to the concept of recycling.

Resources

A wide range of different clean packaging materials and a variety of papers eg an old newspaper, a magazine, some items of junk mail, a couple of different types of envelopes,

Keep these items in a large sack or bag, for other sessions, I've had my collection for 3 years now!!!

1 large hoola hoop

5 smaller hoola hoops

1 small rubbish bin

A large magnet

Materials labels,

Paper

Cardboard

Plastic

Glass

Metal – plus labels for aluminium and steel

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Arrange the smaller hoops around the large one, each with a different material label. Put the collection of materials into the large, centre hoop and have the class sit in a large circle around the hoops.



Ask the children, in turn, to each pick an item, say what it is, what they think it is made of and then place it in the correct hoop. There may well be 'rogue items', e.g. plasticized foil crisp bags or plasticized paper tea bag packets. The big hoop will become emptier, most of the items having been sorted. Explain that there are some items that are made of a mixture of materials and these can't be separated.



A follow up activity, beyond the initial sorting activity, is to look more closely at the metals, and introduce the names of two different metals, steel and aluminium. Explain that these are two metals that are used for making our 'tins' and many other things and that they can be sorted by using a magnet.

Let the children sort out the collection of steel and aluminium 'tins', using the magnet.

