

# Introducing Waste

This section of the pack looks at what we call 'waste' and explains why we need to think differently about what we throw away.

It looks at why we have to reduce the amount of waste we create and why we need to re-use and recycle more materials.

## What is waste?

**Waste, Rubbish, and Refuse** are all names given to materials that people no longer want. This may be domestic waste such as leftover food, packaging, old toys, newspapers, furniture and old clothes. Industry also produces waste in the production process - again packaging and by-products of the production process.

## The bad news

The bad news is that the amount of waste is growing too fast. As more and more products are made and as we buy more and more goods, more waste is created. Rubbish doesn't magically disappear when it gets thrown in the dustbin. It has to be collected and taken away for disposal.

Much more of our waste can be re-used or recycled into new products saving energy and natural resources. However it is even more efficient to stop waste from being created in the first place.

## The good news

We can all be more responsible for the rubbish we produce. The good news is that it is never too late to change our habits. By re-using and recycling whenever possible we can cut back on the amount of waste we generate. If thousands of individuals make a few small changes to their lifestyle it can make a huge difference to the amount of waste to be disposed of and to the quality of our environment.



**Reduce your waste**

**It's your future. It's your choice.**



## Thinking about the future - living sustainably

### Non-renewable resources

Many of the Earth's resources are limited. When they are used up, they cannot easily be replaced. These are called non-renewable resources and include materials such as oil, coal, natural gas and metals. To obtain these resources, humans have to drill or mine into the Earth's surface and build factories to process the materials into a usable form. Processing raw materials into products can cause waste and pollution. All these activities can damage or destroy the environment including the places where animals (including humans) live (their habitats). The land, water and air cannot absorb human waste and pollution faster than natural processes can make them safe.

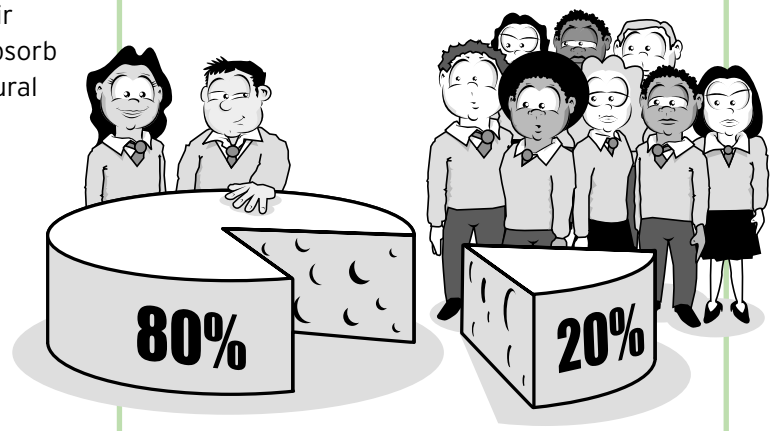
Using non-renewable resources too fast means that future generations of people may have fewer options about how they live than we do today.

### Renewable resources

Some resources are renewable - these include wind, wave and solar energy which can be supplied endlessly. Trees from well-managed forests where felled trees are replaced can also be a renewable resource, for example, forest plantations for the paper industry.

**20% of the world's population uses  
80% of the world's resources.**

**Is this sustainable? Is it fair?**



## Sustainable development

### Sustainability

In the long term humans need to find ways of developing that are fair for all people, continue to provide the resources for healthy and fulfilling lives and maintain a healthy and diverse environment as well as making the world a pleasant and safe place to live. Sustainability is the long term goal and it is going to be hard to achieve.

### Too much waste, or waste in the wrong place:

- Harms the environment and other animals
- Affects human health by causing pollution
- Affects the quality of life
- Uses up too many non-renewable resources such as oil, coal, minerals
- Wastes a lot of money

### Sustainable development

Sustainable development is what we have to do to achieve sustainability. It means using and developing the world's resources and environments wisely so that they can also provide for the needs of our children, grandchildren and the generations to come. Looking after waste properly and reducing resource use is an important part of creating a cleaner environment, a healthy society and a stable economy - one step closer towards sustainability.

To view an example of sustainable living from the past, view Celtic Harmony near Hertford. (see p.146 for details)

# Lunchbox Challenge!



First of all make a list of the waste left in your lunch box...

What happens to the waste? Write down what you do with each item of waste. For example, do you throw it in the bin, take it home for recycling or leave it in the box for someone else to deal with?

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*How can I reduce my waste?*

In the first column write down the item of waste. In the second, how you could reduce waste from that item? For example, could you recycle it, re-use it, or choose something different that could be used again?

item of waste...	How i could reduce waste...

YOUR NAME

TODAY'S DATE



# The Challenge!

If anything goes in the bin from your lunch box, you need to look for another way of disposing of it.

The challenge is to design a lunch box from which there is no waste - **the zero-waste lunch box challenge.**

Design a zero-waste lunch box...



*Ask at home if you can help produce your zero waste lunch box...*

*Did I do well?*

A week later, fill in this table to see if you have improved.

Food item...	Packaging...	What happens to it...

Have you reduced your waste from before?

.....

**If yes - well done!**

*Can you meet the zero waste challenge every day?*





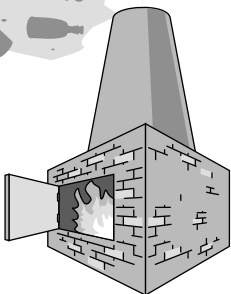
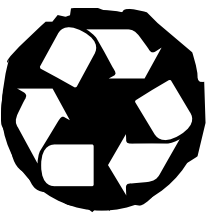

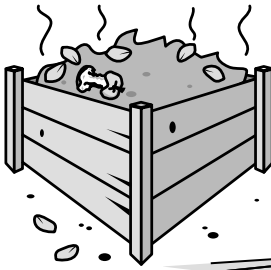

YOUR NAME

TODAY'S DATE



# Waste Vocabulary

Join with a line, the word on the left to the correct picture and meaning...

Word...	Picture...	Meaning...
Packaging		Things that people no longer want and wish to dispose of.
Incineration		Secretly dumping rubbish illegally on roadside verges, fields and unused land.
Landfill		Paper, metal or plastic that are wrapped around products to protect them from damage or prevent them from spilling.
Flytipping		A large hole in the ground where our rubbish can be taken and buried.
Litter		Burning rubbish in a special large furnace to create energy.
Nappies		Using waste materials like glass and paper to make new products.
Recycle		Material put around a baby's bottom because they are unable to go to the toilet themselves!
Waste		A big heap of old plants that rots down to make compost that can be used on gardens and fields.
Compost		Sweet wrappers, old cans, cigarette packets, chewing gum and other small items of waste that are thrown on the ground by people.

# Waste Vocabulary



Use a dictionary to find the meanings of the words, write down the meanings.

Word...	Meaning...
Recycle	
Litter	
Rubbish	
Repair	
Dustbin	
Rot	
Landfill	
Packaging	
Waste	
Refuse	
Incinerate	
Re-use	

If you cannot find a word in the dictionary ask an adult for help or use the internet

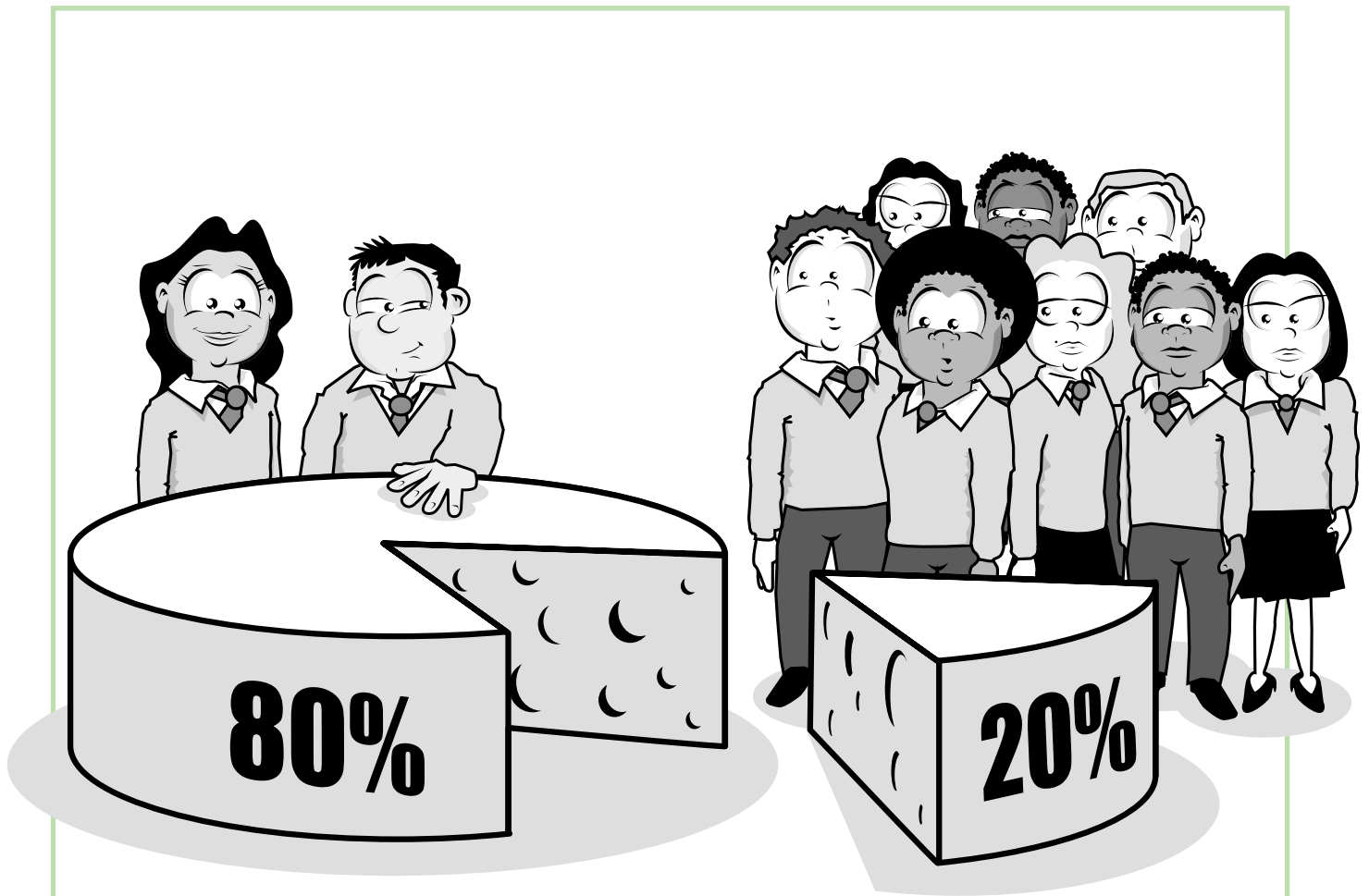
## Wordsearch

Some of the words from your activity sheet can be found vertically  $\updownarrow$ , horizontally  $\leftrightarrow$  and diagonally  $\nearrow\searrow$ .

### Draw a picture

When you've finished the wordsearch perhaps you can draw a picture of some of the words.

A	Z	R	B	D	R	E	P	A	I	R	O
P	R	U	B	U	R	N	W	S	X	E	G
S	Q	B	C	S	R	P	E	H	W	C	H
L	N	B	K	T	R	Y	Y	F	V	Y	P
I	A	I	O	C	I	E	N	A	U	C	A
T	P	S	L	A	N	D	F	I	L	L	C
T	P	H	W	R	T	B	L	U	P	E	K
E	I	W	E	T	O	N	Y	I	S	T	A
R	E	U	A	O	N	T	T	S	C	E	G
L	S	D	U	S	T	B	I	N	I	A	I
E	Q	P	M	J	T	Y	P	K	R	F	N
G	A	R	B	A	G	E	Z	L	A	X	G



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