

Waste of Our Space

Objective

To investigate and understand the impact of waste on the natural environment, and empower participants to take a proactive step in reducing, reusing and recycling their waste items.

To empower power through choice.

Activity outline

Present by PowerPoint a photographic slideshow of domestic and commercial items, such as fizzy drink cans, clothes, fridges, polystyrene cups, and orange peel. Each image should be accompanied with either one of the following captions;

- *This item can be recycled*
- *This item cannot be recycled*

Divide the class into teams, ask them to come up with an environmentally themed team name, and give them a 'true' card and a 'false' card each.

As each image appears on screen, ask the class in their groups to hold up either a true or false card, depending on whether they agree with the caption statements or not.

When each group have raised their card, tell them the correct answer verbally or reveal it on screen, and prompt discussion – *what happens to this item? How long does it take to breakdown? If we can't recycle, what can we do with it?* Each group that answers correctly receives 1 point.

Repeat the whole process with the class for every image in the slideshow.

When the slideshow has finished, the game ends and the team with the most points wins a reward.

Learning outcomes

- Participate in teams
- Observe how visual media (PowerPoint) can be used to illustrate subject matter
- Draw on personal lifestyle experiences to inform decision-making
- Learn about the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling
- Construct mental list of 'good' and 'bad' domestic/commercial waste
- Empowered as consumers to make choices

Possible follow-up/feedback discussion

Further discussion following the PowerPoint activity could involve asking the teams:

- *How many of each item does Cornwall use each year?*
- *How many of each item does Cornwall throw away each year?*
- *How many of each item does Cornwall recycle each year?*

Write a list of all the items the children have thrown away during the week and where they have thrown them away, and what items they have recycled and where they have recycled them. Ask the children to tick a box next to each if they did the right thing and a cross where they feel they did the wrong thing.

Visit Rezone Kernow in Bodmin and Eden Waste Neutral to see how waste is recycled.

Resources

- Computer with Powerpoint facilities, and screen
- 'True' and 'false' cards