

# Recycle Right

## Recycling Education Resource for teachers of English as a Second Language



Government  
of South Australia  
Zero Waste SA



**RECYCLE RIGHT**



Zero Waste SA, established by the *Zero Waste SA Act 2004*, provides strategic policy advice and direction to government and stakeholders. It undertakes programs and projects that maximise waste reduction and promote recycle and sustainability. It engages with the community, business and government, building partnerships for change.

## **Zero Waste SA**

**Head Office:** Level 8  
Statewide House  
99 Gawler Place  
ADELAIDE SA 5000

**Address:** GPO Box 1047  
Adelaide SA 5001

**Telephone:** +61 8 8204 2051

**Facsimile:** (08) 8204 1911

**Email:** [zerowaste@zerowaste.sa.gov.au](mailto:zerowaste@zerowaste.sa.gov.au)

**Web:** [www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au](http://www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au)

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# Foreword

Teaching English as a Second Language is a very special profession. Teachers need materials that simultaneously teach English, use real world situations and topics, help students become more comfortable in their new community - all without being monotonous or written for children while providing an on-going lesson plan.

## That's what *Recycle Right* does.

Concerns about the environment are everywhere. They are a part of everyday life. Students are likely to hear about environmental issues and may wish to participate in the solution. Many students may have come from countries where recycling simply does not happen or where they may not even have bins, much less bin collection. Yet they are faced with a new system, including three bins with different coloured lids – day in and day out.

This resource introduces students to the three-bin system used by many South Australian councils to separate green organics, recyclables and general waste. This is a fundamental part of our community's approach to managing waste and reducing the need for landfills.

Students will learn about how to recycle correctly and what happens to the materials once they leave their kerb. The various lessons were created to range from simple, easy lessons through to complex and more difficult concepts. They can be taught across an entire term or as isolated activities. A video and online resource are available on the *Recycle Right* website at [www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au](http://www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au).

The material is assembled into three main themes aligned to the bin lid colours:



By using this *Recycle Right* resource we can build on South Australia's reputation as a community of enthusiastic recyclers.



**Paul Caica**  
Minister for Environment and Conservation

## Special thanks

This teaching resource was initially created and developed by KESAB *environmental solutions* with assistance from Port Adelaide Enfield Council for residents with a non-English speaking background.

Zero Waste SA has reproduced with permission eight activities from this resource - **Recycling** activities 3, 6-9, **Organics** activities 1-2, and **Waste** activity 1.

In 2011, Zero Waste SA updated and expanded the resource to create 15 new activities aligned with the *Recycle Right* education campaign; **Recycling** activities 1, 2, 4, 5, 10-12, **Organics** activities 3, 4 and 5, **Waste** activities 2-4 and the final review chapter.

The expertise and effort of KESAB *environmental solutions* in supporting the development of this expanded resource is acknowledged – thank you to John Phillips, Jo Hendriks, Kathy Scarborough and Margaret Steuart.

Zero Waste SA also acknowledges the English as a Second Language (ESL) team at TAFE SA (Adelaide). TAFE SA piloted the activities with students learning English as a second language and provided invaluable feedback. Thank you to ESL teachers Nadine Schoen, Heather Hannah, Jan Allan, Shannon Wang, Claude Hammam and Susannah McCallum.

# Recycling

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# Section 1

# Recycling

## Background information

It's easy to *Recycle Right* in South Australia as most councils in metropolitan Adelaide provide a recycling bin with a yellow lid.

Recycling saves water, energy and resources. Over 70% of SA's waste gets recycled but a lot of valuable resources that could be recycled are still going to landfill.

Items that go into the recycling bin need to be free from food and drink remnants. So give jars, bottles and cans a quick rinse and remove food from pizza boxes and take-away containers before placing them in the recycling bin.

### PUT IN **YELLOW** RECYCLING BIN



**GLASS BOTTLES AND JARS**  
(not ovenproof glass, rinsed, lids off)



**ALUMINIUM AND STEEL**  
(rinsed, lids off, same bin)



**HARD PLASTICS, CARTONS**  
(rinsed, lids off)



**PAPER AND CARDBOARD**  
(not shredded or tied)



### **DON'T PUT IN **YELLOW** RECYCLING BIN**



**CLOTHING/ FABRICS**



**GARDENING TOOLS**



**ORGANIC WASTE**



**PLASTIC BAGS/ WRAP/ BIN LINERS**



# Activity 1 | Pronunciation stress and syllables

This activity will help you with the pronunciation of words relating to recycling.

For each word:

1. write the number of syllables
2. show where the syllables are split
3. circle the syllable with the stress.

The first three have been started for you.

Recycling word	Number of syllables	Show where the syllables are split and circle the syllable with the stress
recycle	3	re/cy/cle
environment	4	en/vir/on/ment
rubbish	2	rubb/ish
plastic		
aluminium		
cardboard		
bottles		
newspaper		
magazine		
paper		

# Activity 2 | What can be recycled in your recycling bin?

Most councils use a recycling bin with a yellow lid.

Match the photograph with the correct recyclable item icon.



**GLASS BOTTLES AND JARS**  
(not ovenproof glass, rinsed, lids off)



**HARD PLASTICS, CARTONS**  
(rinsed, lids off)



**ALUMINIUM AND STEEL**  
(rinsed, lids off, same bin)

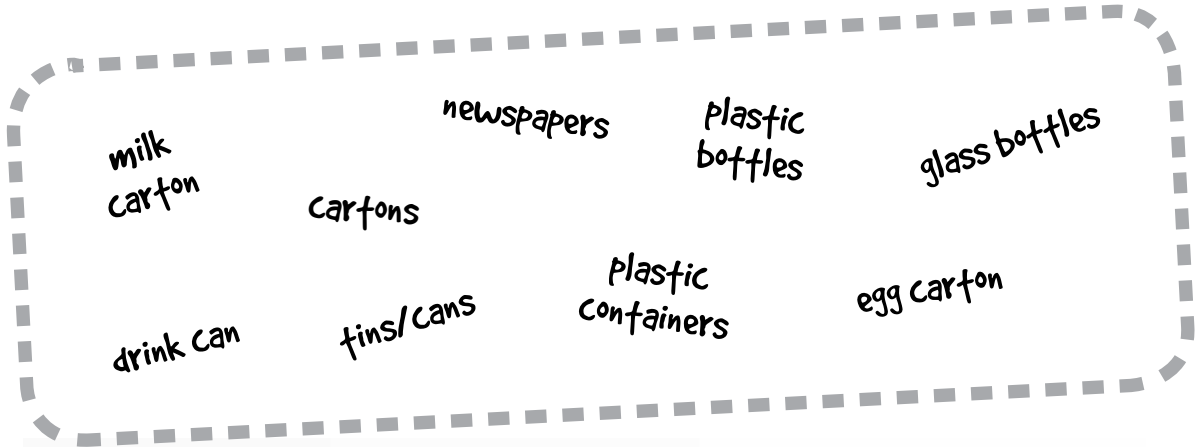


**PAPER AND CARDBOARD**  
(not shredded or tied)

Give bottles and jars a quick rinse before placing in the **RECYCLING BIN.**

# Activity 3 | Name these recyclable items

Choose from:



**Optional activity**  
**Bring in containers for a hands-on discussion.**

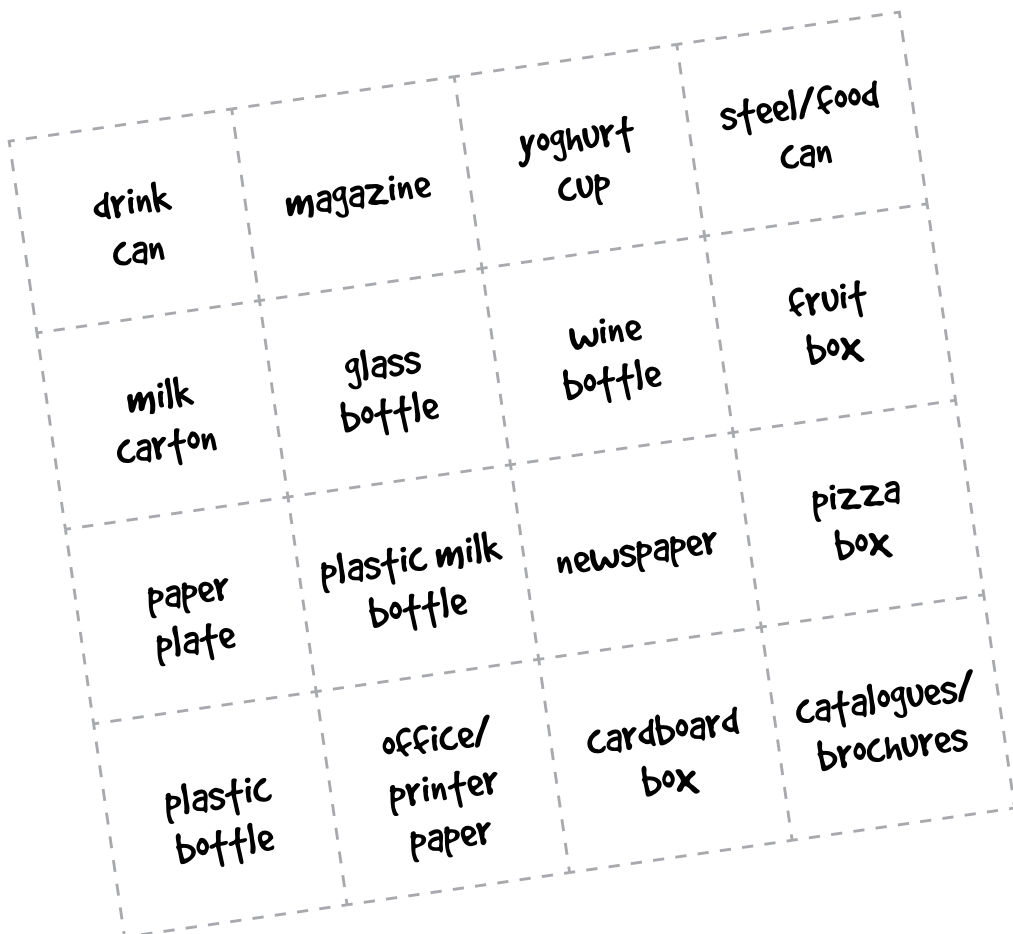


# Activity 4 | Recycling match

## Picture / word sets:

Match the picture to the word that describes it.

**Pizza boxes  
without food scraps  
can go in the  
RECYCLING BIN.**



# Activity 5 | Word search

Search for the words in the list below within the puzzle.

Circle each word as you find it and cross it off the list. Words can be found going in any direction in the puzzle - up, down, diagonally, across and backward!

Place the remaining letters on the dashes below to reveal the hidden message.

### Search for the following words:

- |                |               |               |                 |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| AEROSOL        | CONTAINERS    | GLASS JARS    | PAPER           |
| ALUMINIUM CANS | EGG CARTON    | JUICE CARTONS | PLASTIC BOTTLES |
| CANS           | ENVELOPES     | MAGAZINES     | TOILET ROLL     |
| CARDBOARD      | GLASS BOTTLES | MILK CARTONS  | YELLOW LID      |
| CATALOGUES     |               |               |                 |

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

### The hidden message is:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_!

## Activity 6 |



## Glass bottles and jars

Recycling

Glass bottles and jars can be recycled over and over again, without loss of quality. This reduces the need to mine raw materials. However, some glass items such as mirrors, heat-resistant glassware (Pyrex) or light bulbs, cannot be placed into the recycling bin.

This is because the glass melting point of this kind of glass is different to glass bottles and jars.

**The items in this picture can go in the recycling bin.**

Glass b \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ and glass j \_ \_ \_ \_  
go into the recycling bin.

Your recycling bin has a y \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ lid.



**The items in the picture below do NOT go into the recycling bin.**

They go into the w \_ \_ \_ \_ b \_ \_ \_ with a b \_ \_ \_ \_ or r \_ \_ \_ lid

Match the words with the numbered items:

- 1 Fluorescent bulb
- 2 broken mirror or window
- 3 glasses or spectacles
- 4 jug
- 5 casserole dish
- 6 tea cup or saucer
- 7 light globe or bulb



## Activity 7



## Hard plastics and cartons

Recycling

Recycling technology has advanced over the years, allowing residents from all metropolitan Adelaide councils and an increasing number of country councils to recycle any rigid plastic that holds its shape, from ice cream containers to plastic buckets – provided they don't have components made of other materials such as metal. If they can hold their shape, they can be recycled!

However, plastic bags, cling/bubble wrap, cellophane or any other soft plastic that does not hold its shape cannot be recycled through the kerbside collection system.

This is because soft and hard plastic chemical properties are too different to be recycled together. Plastic bags and other soft plastics often contaminate other recyclables such as paper, because they don't separate out easily and remain mixed in with them. Plastic bags can often be taken to a supermarket where a collection bin is set up, to go through a different type of recycling process. Polystyrene or foam cannot be recycled and currently must be disposed of in the waste bin (blue or red lid).

Plastic food and drink containers should be rinsed, so they don't create smells or attract vermin.

**P** \_\_\_\_\_ containers that hold their shape go into the recycling bin.



### Discuss the new vocabulary

Use the word list and items within the photograph to initiate conversation e.g. "Can you show me a butter container and can it be recycled?"

- ✓ detergent and cleaning product bottles
- ✓ butter, cream or yoghurt containers
- ✓ take-away containers
- ✓ drink bottles

These plastics do NOT hold their shape because they are soft. Soft plastics do NOT go into the recycling bin. Soft plastics can be:

- ~~X~~ plastic bags
- ~~X~~ garbage bags
- ~~X~~ food packaging
- ~~X~~ cling wrap



# Activity 8 |



# Aluminium and steel

# Recycling

Food and drink containers made from steel or aluminium (cans and tins) can be recycled. Other items such as bicycle parts cannot go into the kerbside recycling system because they can cause the machinery to breakdown in the recycling factory. Steel cans for example, are lifted out from other recyclables by a magnetised conveyor belt, while aluminium cans are separated by hand, on a different conveyor belt.

Metal lids from steel cans, glass jars or wine bottles should be placed inside a steel can and the can squashed down to ensure that they don't get missed by the magnetised conveyor belt. Metal cans and tins should be rinsed, ensuring that they don't create smells or attract vermin. Some food is often difficult to remove from cans, but excess can be shifted with a spatula or spoon.

## All these metal containers can be put into the recycling bin.

Practice vocabulary by filling in the blank spaces that correspond with the photograph and initiate conversation,

e.g. "Can you show me an aerosol can?"



**Shankari:** Should I put the metal lids off of gl \_\_\_ j \_\_\_ and b \_\_\_\_\_ in the recycling bin?

**Wei-Li:** You can but put them together into a st \_\_\_ can and squish to keep them inside.

**Shankari:** Thank you. Good tip. Can you recycle aerosol c \_\_\_ too?

**Wei-Li:** Yes you can but make sure they are empty.

**Shankari:** What about empty pet and food t \_\_\_?

**Wei-Li:** Yes they go into the recycling bin too but rinse them first.





# Recycling tips

## 1 **Rinse your recyclables**

Items that go into the recycling bin need to be free from food and drink remnants. This means jars and cans need a quick rinse (no need to thoroughly wash or remove labels) and containers such as pizza boxes and take-away containers should not have left-over food in them.

Rinsing recyclables helps to reduce smells and health risks for those people working in the material recovery facilities. Imagine a 40°C degree day with two week old recycling that hasn't been washed! Vermin or pests such as mice, wasps and flies are also attracted to smelly bins.

## 2 **Remove the lids**

Plastic bottle lids are usually made from different materials to the bottle itself and can't yet be easily recycled.

## 3 **Flatten your cardboard**

The machinery that sorts your recyclables is far more effective if cardboard boxes are flattened. Bundling newspapers together can also affect the sorting process, so keep them separate.

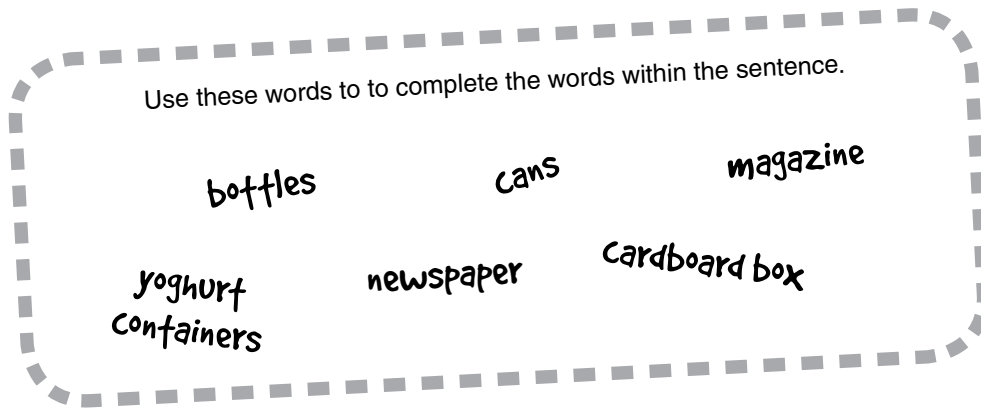
## 4 **Separate the different materials before recycling**

If an item contains different types of materials, separate them out before recycling. For example, if junk mail is wrapped in plastic, be sure to remove the wrapping and put it in the waste bin before recycling the paper.



# Activity 9 | Recycling picture match

Fill in the missing letters of the words that match the picture shown in each sentence.



### Shankari asks Wei-Li what he can put into the recycling bin

**Shankari:** Can you please put the recycling out?

**Wei-Li:** OK, but can I put these b \_\_\_\_\_ and c \_\_\_\_\_ into the recycling bin?

**Shankari:** Yes, they go into the recycling bin, but rinse them with water first and you need to take the lids off.

**Wei-Li:** Do I put the y \_\_\_\_\_ c \_\_\_\_\_ into the waste bin or the recycling bin?

**Shankari:** They go into the recycling bin, but rinse them with water first.

**Wei-Li:** Why do I need to rinse all of these things?

**Shankari:** So they don't smell for the people in the recycling factory.

**Wei-Li:** The c \_\_\_\_\_ b \_\_\_\_\_, n \_\_\_\_\_ and m \_\_\_\_\_ go into the recycling bin, don't they?

**Shankari:** Yes, they do!

---

### Optional activity

**Once the blank spaces are filled, role-play the conversation in pairs or around the class.**

Don't put your recyclables in a plastic bag.

# Activity 10 | What cannot be put in the recycling bin?

Plastic bags, cling/bubble wrap, cellophane or any other soft, pliable plastic, that does not hold its shape, cannot be recycled through the kerbside collection system.

Plastic bags and other soft plastics can contaminate other recyclables such as paper as they don't separate out easily. This can cause problems with the machinery in the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) where the recyclables are sorted.

Polystyrene or foam cannot be recycled through your kerbside recycling bin so currently must be disposed in the waste bin (blue or red lidded bin).

Only glass bottles and jars can be recycled in your recycling bin. Other glass items such as mirrors, heat resistant glassware (Pyrex) and light bulbs cannot be placed into the recycling bin. This is because the melting point of these glass products is different to glass bottles and jars, they may have coatings on them (e.g. UV protection), or there may be other materials such as metal in them (e.g. light globes).

## Recycle Right research

On the Zero Waste SA website [www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au/at-home/recycle-right](http://www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au/at-home/recycle-right) you can enter items to find out if they can or cannot go in the recycling bin.

What does it say about the following items? Which bin should they go in?



broken crockery

-----



gardening tools

-----



nappies

-----



clothing and fabric

-----



food scraps

-----



plastic bags

-----



light globes

-----

## Your choice

List two items you would like to research and then use the website to find which bin they should go into:

Item 1: -----

Item 2: -----



# What happens to your recyclables?



When recyclables are collected from residents' kerbside bins, they are taken to a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) where the mixed materials are separated into recyclable groups

(glass, paper/cardboard, plastics and metal). Once separated, the items are baled (or crushed and contained if glass) and sent to various recycling factories to be processed into a wide range of products.

## Recycling life-cycle

Put your recyclables in the recycling bin



The recycling truck empties your bin...



...and takes it to the recycling factory...



Wash to remove food or drink.



They might be turned into food or drink containers that can be recycled again.



They are then sent to other recycling factories to be made into other products.

...where all the items are separated into:

- glass
- metal
- plastics
- paper
- cartons
- cardboard



**As you can see, recyclables are not rubbish but valuable resources.**

# Activity 11a | Half crossword

Work with a partner who has Activity 11b (next page) in front of them.

The words you have on your crossword are the words that are missing on theirs and they have the words on their crossword that are missing on yours.

Take it in turns to give clues (without using the actual word) to help your partner guess the word and fill in their crossword.

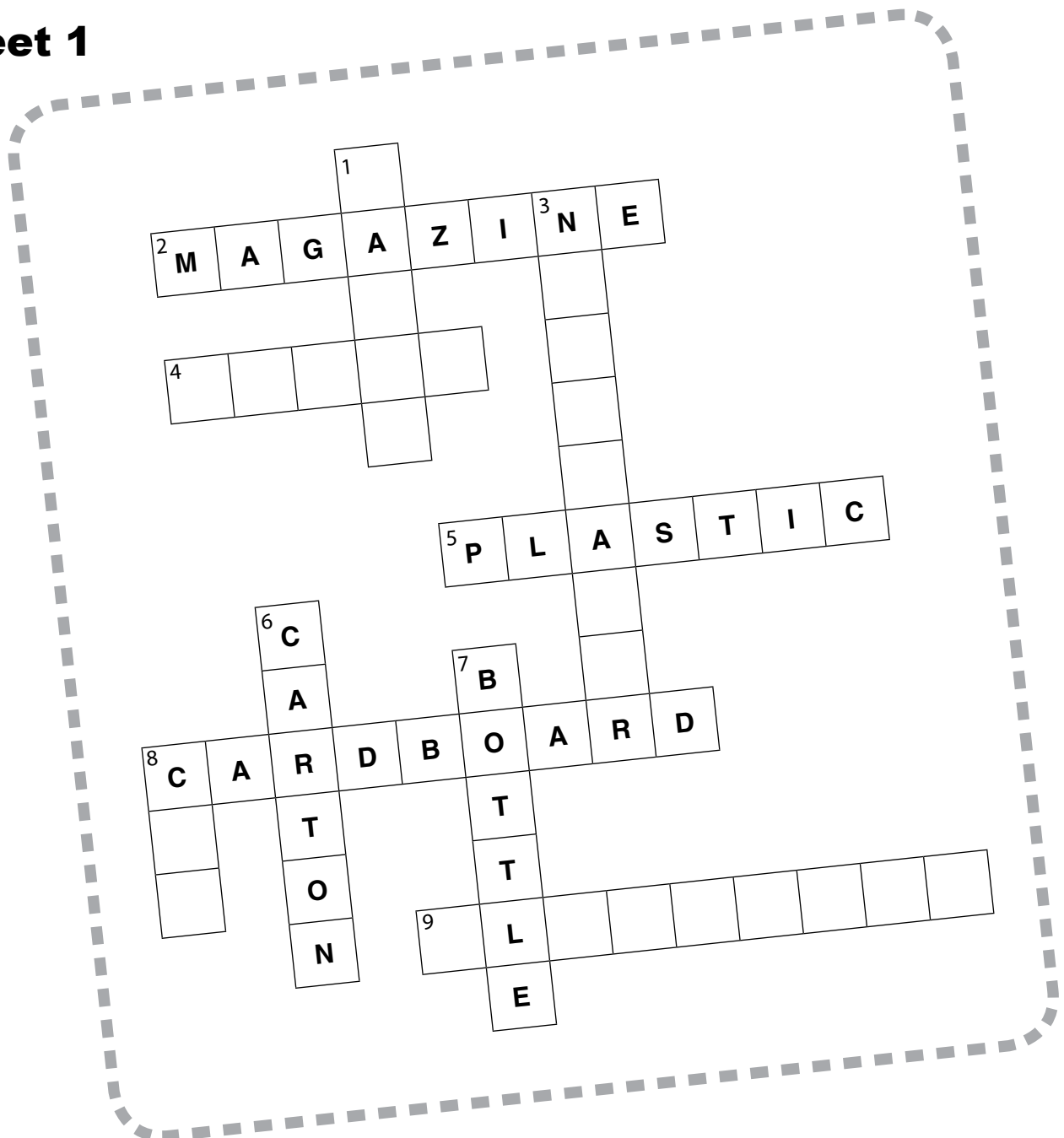
i.e. "6 Down: This recyclable item holds your eggs and your milk."

Do you know what all the words mean?

Use your dictionary to find out the meaning of any words you don't know.

Only recyclable items can be found in the crossword.

## Sheet 1



# Activity 11b | Half crossword

Work with a partner who has Activity 11a (previous page) in front of them.

The words you have on your crossword are the words that are missing on theirs and they have the words on their crossword that are missing on yours.

Take it in turns to give clues (without using the actual word) to help your partner guess the word and fill in their crossword.

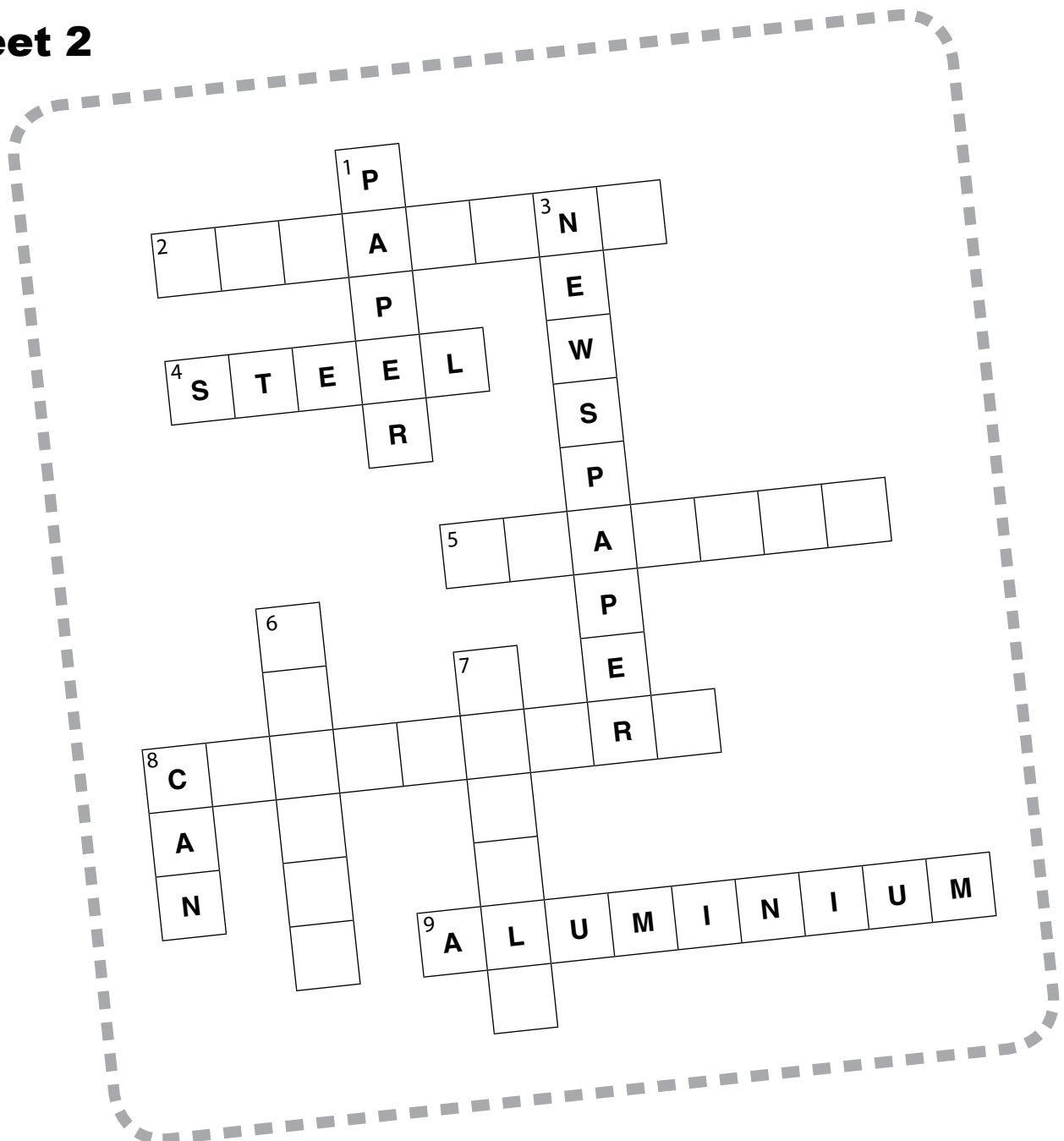
i.e. "1 Down: This recyclable item is made from trees and can be written or printed on."

Do you know what all the words mean?

Use your dictionary to find out the meaning of any words you don't know.

Only recyclable items can be found in the crossword.

## Sheet 2



## Writing activity #1

You have a friend from China who has recently arrived in Australia and lives in your suburb. She does not know about recycling. Write her an email explaining why and how she can recycle. Your email should include information about the bin system, recycling groups (e.g. paper, glass, plastics, metal) and examples of what she can recycle.

To... My Friend

Subject: Recycling in Australia

## Writing activity #2

Did you recycle in your home country?  
What did you do with rubbish and recyclables?

Compare how waste is managed in your home country with the system you have learnt about in Australia, discussing any similarities and differences, advantages and disadvantages as well as your opinion on the different systems.

Similarities	Differences	Advantages	Disadvantages

# Organics

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**Remember the  
GREEN BIN RULE:  
If it didn't grow,  
it doesn't go.**

# Section 2

# Organics

## Background information

Most councils in metropolitan Adelaide and an increasing number of country councils provide a green organics bin with a green lid.

All plant material can be put into the garden organics bin, as long as the lid can close and the bin is not too heavy for the arm of the truck to lift (about 50kg).

Even weeds and diseased plants can go in the green organics bin, as weeds and diseases are all killed off in the composting process. Animal fur and human hair may be placed into the green organics bin too as well as animal faeces. Just make sure these are NOT in a plastic bag.



## PUT IN GREEN ORGANICS BIN



LAWN CLIPPINGS



GARDEN PRUNINGS



TWIGS/ LEAVES



SMALL BRANCHES  
(max. 15cm diameter x 60cm long)



## DON'T PUT IN GREEN ORGANICS BIN



PLASTIC BAGS/  
WRAP/  
BIN LINERS



NAPPIES  
(inc. biodegradable)



GARDENING TOOLS

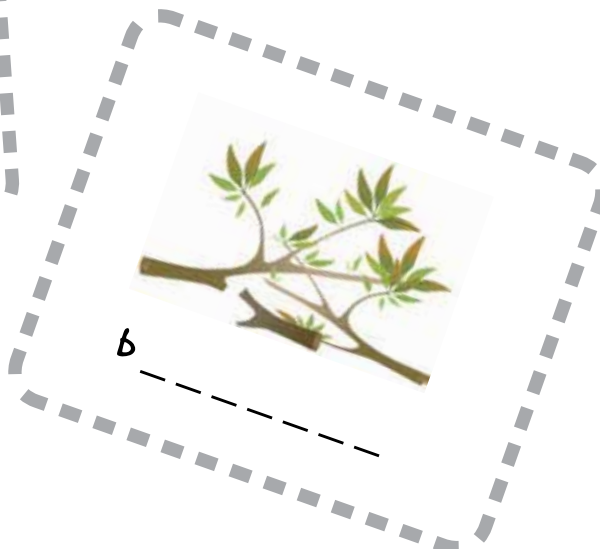
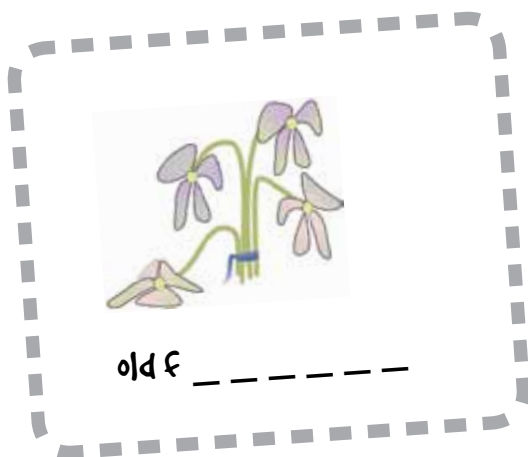
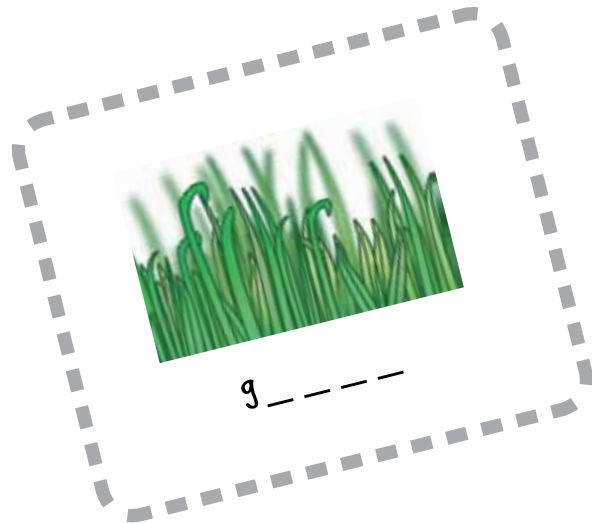
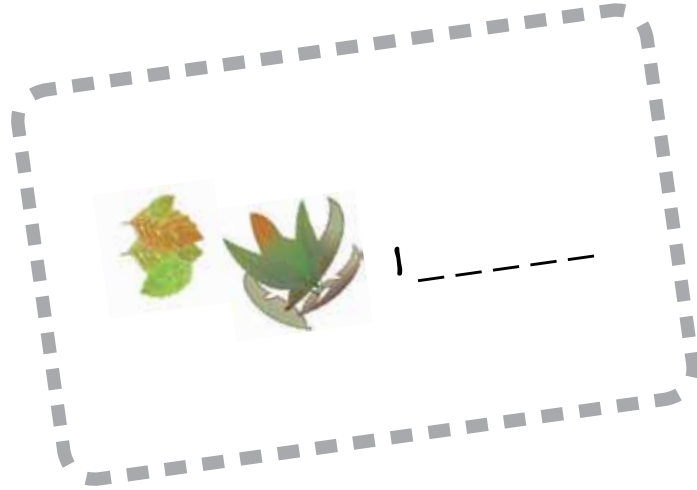


IRRIGATION HOSES/  
PLASTIC POTS/  
TRAYS



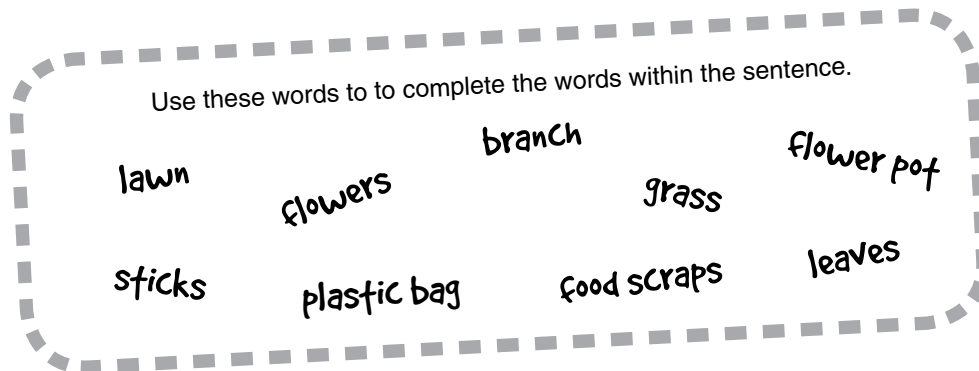
# Activity 1 | Gap fill

Fill in the missing letters to complete the words that match the picture shown.



## Activity 2 | Picture match

Fill in the missing letters of the words that match the picture shown in each sentence.



### Shankari helps Wei-Li with the gardening

Wei-Li: Can you help me put this b \_\_\_\_\_ into the green organics bin?



Shankari: OK. I will put these s \_\_\_\_\_ into the green organics bin too.



Wei-Li: Thanks! I will sweep the l \_\_\_\_\_ and put them into the green organics bin.



Shankari: Can I put these l \_\_\_ clippings into a p \_\_\_\_\_ b\_ \_\_\_\_\_ before I put them into the green organics bin?



Wei-Li: No! Just put the g \_\_\_\_\_ straight into the bin. Only things from plants can go into the green organics bin.



Shankari: So, I can put these dead f \_\_\_\_\_ into the green organics bin, but NOT the f \_\_\_\_\_ p\_ \_\_\_\_\_ ?



Wei-Li: That's right!

Shankari: I have heard that in some councils you can put f \_\_\_\_\_ s \_\_\_\_\_ in your green organics bin. Is that true?



Wei-Li: Yes it is. Contact your council or use [www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au/at-home/recycle-right](http://www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au/at-home/recycle-right) to find out if you can recycle your f \_\_\_\_\_ s \_\_\_\_\_ in your organics bin.



### Optional activity

Once the blank spaces are filled, role-play the conversation in pairs or around the class.



# Activity 3 | Word search

Organics

Search for the words in the list below within the puzzle.

Circle each word as you find it and cross it off the list. Words can be found going in any direction in the puzzle - up, down, across and backward!

Place the remaining letters on the dashes below to reveal the hidden message.

## Search for the following words:

- |                                |                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| BRANCHES                       | GREEN LID      | ORGANICS |
| FOOD SCRAPS<br>(some councils) | LAWN CLIPPINGS | STICKS   |
| GRASS                          | LEAVES         | TWIGS    |
|                                | OLD FLOWERS    | WEEDS    |



T	W	I	G	S	O	R	G	A	N	G	I	G
C	S	R	U	L	E	I	F	I	T	R	D	R
S	D	E	E	W	I	D	N	T	G	E	R	A
O	L	D	F	L	O	W	E	R	S	E	O	S
L	A	W	N	C	L	I	P	P	I	N	G	S
S	P	A	R	C	S	D	O	O	F	L	W	I
T	O	R	G	A	N	I	C	S	D	I	O	E
B	R	A	N	C	H	E	S	S	N	D	T	G
S	T	I	C	K	S	O	L	E	A	V	E	S

The hidden message is:

\_\_\_\_\_:

\_\_\_\_\_

## Activity 4 | What cannot be put in the organics bin?

Rocks, soil or man-made items such as bricks, tiles, hoses, plastic and clothing cannot go into the green organics bin. These items do not break down (decompose) in the same way as plant material and can often cause mechanical breakdowns in the machinery that processes the organic material.

Unfortunately many people still put their plant material into plastic bags, or put other garden items such as hoses, plastic pots and tags into the green organics bin.

Unwanted material in green organics bins is called 'contamination' and has to be removed from the organic material. The process of removing contamination is called 'screening' and involves sorting the material by hand and with machinery.

These contaminants must be removed before the shredding process can begin.

No dirt,  
rocks or  
bricks in the  
**GREEN BIN.**





### Writing task

Write in your own words why these items should not go in the organics bin.

# Activity 5 | Use the *Recycle Right* website

Use the *Recycle Right* website [www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au/at-home/recycle-right](http://www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au/at-home/recycle-right) to find out if the following items can be placed in the organics bin in your council or not, then write them in the table below.

- leaves
- plant pot
- branches
- hose
- jars
- lawn clippings
- rocks
- soil
- weeds
- dead flowers
- glass bottles
- plastic bag
- food scraps
- sprinkler

<b>It did grow so it CAN go in the green organics bin!</b>	<b>It did NOT grow so it CANNOT go in the green organics bin!</b>
	

# What happens to your organics?



The plant material is placed in massive rows by the composter. These rows of plant material naturally heat up due to the activity of micro-organisms like bacteria. The temperature can reach up to 75°C. High temperatures kill off

moulds, diseased plants, weeds and seeds. The rows are turned and watered to maintain uniform temperature and moisture, until the garden organics turn into a rich soil, mulch or compost. This product is used to replenish

household garden and agricultural soils. Each time new crops or plants are planted they take up the carbon and nutrients from the soil in order to grow, so it is important to provide nutrients with rich compost or mulch.

## Green Organics life-cycle



Put garden organics in the green bin.



Your green organics are emptied into the green organics truck.



It is taken to a place where your green organics are turned into compost.



The compost is used for gardens to grow more plants.



Over time, it turns into compost.



Material is sorted by machinery and hand.



It is put in a long row and given air and water.

**As you can see, green organics are not rubbish, but valuable resources.**

# Index

# Waste

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**Large waste items such as broken furniture, televisions and so on, can be collected via a hard waste service. This can be arranged with your Council.**



# Section 3

# Waste

## Background information

This chapter focuses on rubbish that goes to landfill, otherwise known as 'waste'. In South Australia most councils in metropolitan Adelaide provide a waste bin with either a blue or red lid.

Many household items that cannot be recycled through the recycling bin or composted through the organics bin can be placed in this bin to go to landfill. This includes nappies and containers spoiled by food. Plastic bags can be placed in the waste bin however many major supermarkets have collection bins to collect plastic bags for recycling.

Larger items such as furniture, televisions and bikes can be collected separately through a council hard waste service. Call your local council to find out about a hard waste collection.



### PUT IN RED/BLUE WASTE BIN



FOAM CUPS/  
FOOD TRAYS



PLASTIC BAGS/  
WRAP/  
BIN LINERS



NAPPIES  
(inc. biodegradable)



CLOTHING/  
FABRIC



### DON'T PUT IN RED/ BLUE WASTE BIN



DIRT/  
ROCKS



HAZARDOUS/  
MEDICAL  
WASTE



ELECTRONIC  
APPLIANCES



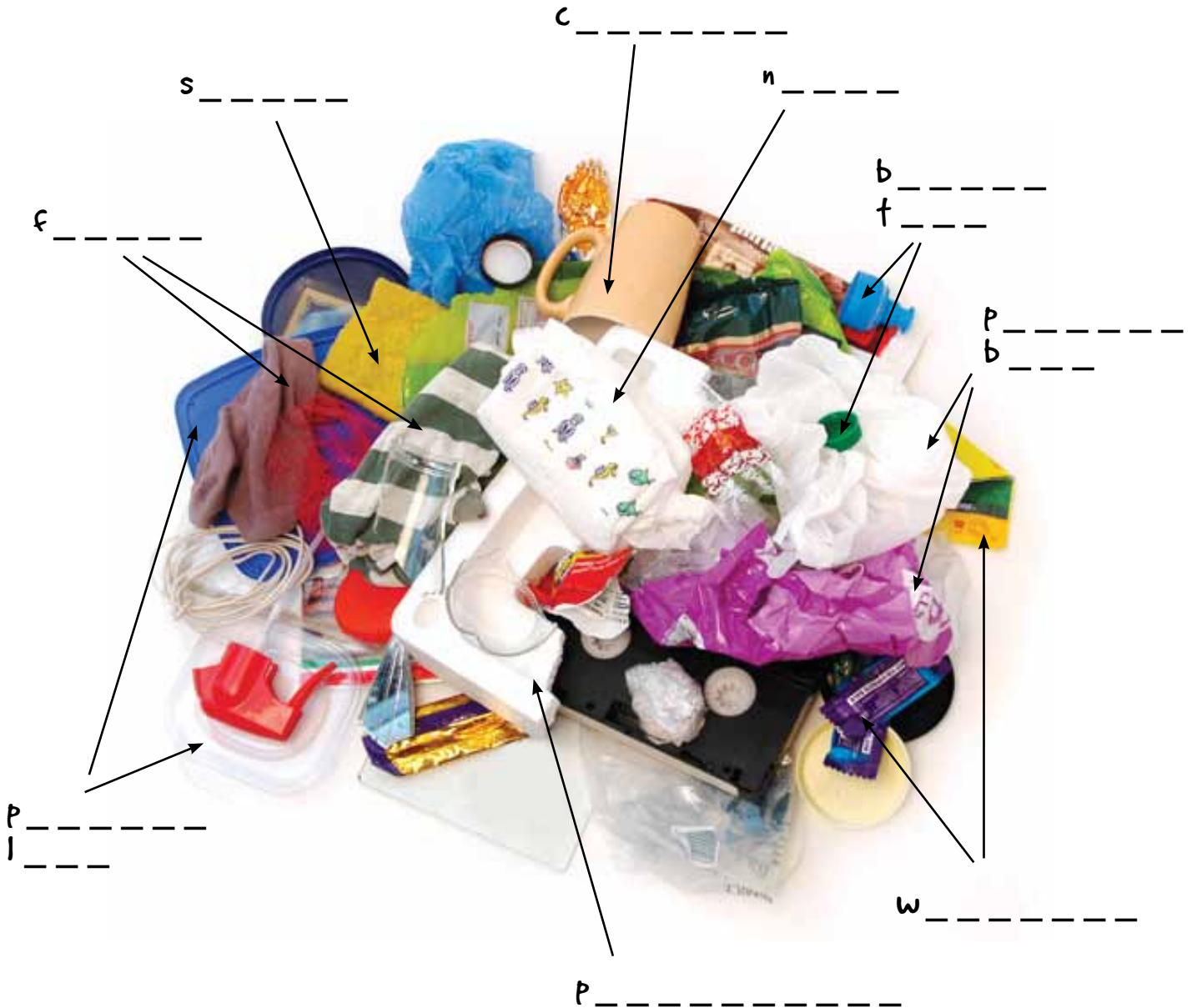
BUILDING  
MATERIALS

# Activity 1 | Name these items



Choose from:

- plastic bags
- bottle tops
- wrappers
- plastic lids
- polystyrene
- crockery
- fabric
- sponge
- nappy



## Activity 2 | Waste match

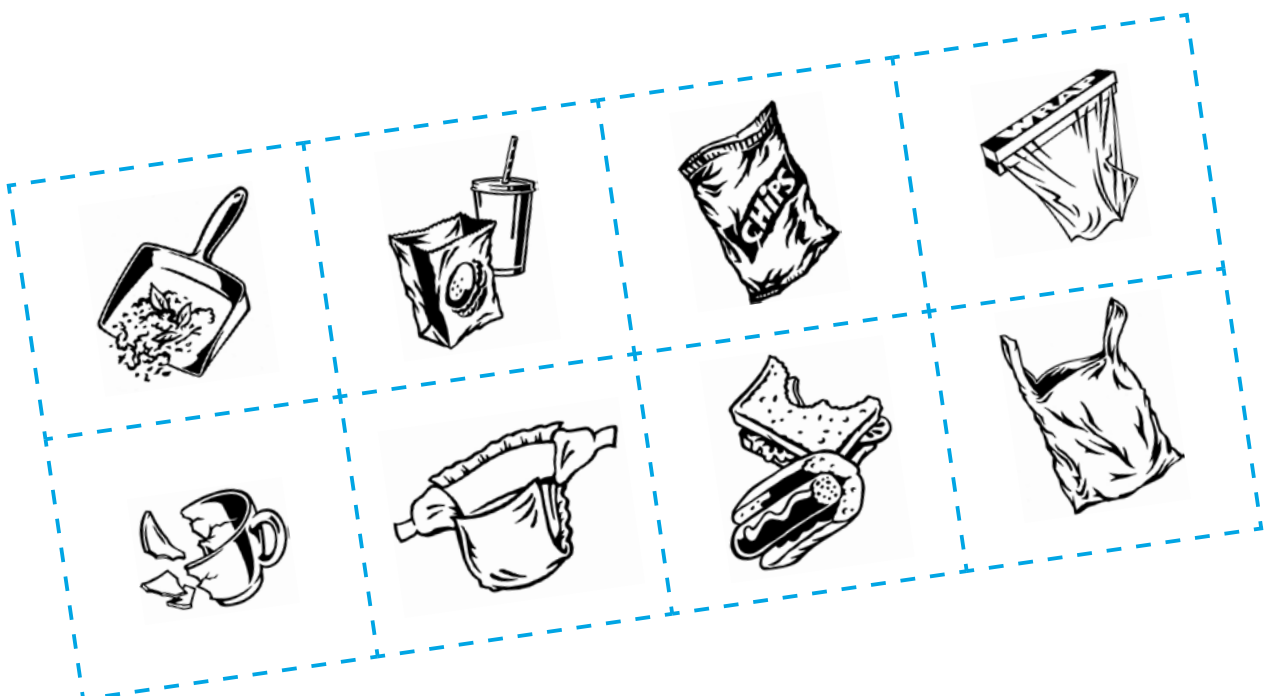
Waste

### Picture / word sets:

Match the picture to the word that describes it.



Food waste	plastic bag	dirty food containers	nappy
soft plastic packaging (cling wrap)	chip packet	broken crockery	dustpan waste





# Activity 3 | What goes in the waste bin?



Search for the words in the list below within the puzzle then place the remaining letters on the dashes below to reveal the hidden message.

Words can be found going in any direction in the puzzle - up, down, diagonally, across and backward!

## Search for the following words:

- |                 |                                |              |               |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| BROKEN GLASS    | CROCKERY                       | NAPPIES      | SOFT PLASTICS |
| CHIP PACKETS    | FABRICS                        | PLASTIC BAGS | WASTE         |
| CIGARETTE BUTTS | FOOD SCRAPS<br>(some councils) | ROPES        | WRAPPERS      |
| CLOTHING        |                                | RUBBISH      | GARBAGE       |

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

The hidden message is:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Activity 4 | The 3Rs



**We can all minimise waste and save precious resources by following the 3Rs – reduce, reuse and recycle; and in doing so reduce the environmental impact.**

## Reduce

Be a conscious consumer and avoid waste:

- buy fewer but well-chosen items
- buy well-made, durable items and avoid disposable products
- take reusable bags with you when going shopping
- choose items with minimal packaging
- hire or borrow items you use infrequently or only for special occasions.

## Reuse

Repair, rejuvenate and reuse items where you can. Some other reuse tips are:

- share or swap with friends and family
- modify clothes, shoes and accessories already owned and loved
- buy pre-loved items from charities, markets, garage sales and vintage stores
- donate directly to charities or in charity bins
- donate to local schools or kindergartens
- sell items at a garage sale, market, vintage clothing store or online.

## Recycle

Even items that cannot be recycled through your recycling bin can be taken to other places to be recycled.

See [www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au/e-waste/recycle-used-light-globes-for-free](http://www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au/e-waste/recycle-used-light-globes-for-free) for information on how to recycle your light globes including compact fluorescent lamps and tubes, incandescent globes, halogen lamps, tubes and bulbs.

**In addition to the 3Rs, it’s important to avoid waste in the first place. Discuss ways you have tried to reduce waste in your home and add these to the 3Rs list.**

*I have reduced waste in my home by:*

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---

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Circle either true or false for each statement.

Where false is circled, rewrite the statement so it is true.

1. Empty aerosol cans can be recycled in the recycling bin	TRUE / FALSE
2. Items that go in the recycling bin need to be free from food and drink remnants, so give jars, bottles and cans a quick rinse before recycling.	TRUE / FALSE
3. The lid on the recycling bin is red.	TRUE / FALSE
4. Fluorescent bulbs can be placed in your recycling bin.	TRUE / FALSE
5. The organics bin rule is: If it didn't grow, it doesn't go.	TRUE / FALSE
6. Hard, rigid plastic bottles and containers are placed in the WASTE bin and soft plastics are placed in the RECYCLING bin.	TRUE / FALSE
7. Only organic material such as lawn clippings, dead flowers, branches and leaves should be placed in the organics bin.	TRUE / FALSE
8. Broken crockery, gardening tools and nappies can be recycled in the recycling bin.	TRUE / FALSE
9. Choosing items with minimal packaging will help to reduce waste.	TRUE / FALSE
10. Plastic bags should never be placed in the recycling or organics bins.	TRUE / FALSE

# Answers

Page 10 Recycling Activity 5 | Word Search: Recycling Right saves water, energy and resources!

Page 25 Organics Activity 3 | Word Search: If it didn't grow, it doesn't go.

Page 33 Waste Activity 3 | Word Search: Don't waste your recyclables by sending them to landfill.

Page 35 Final Activity | Recycle Right Review

1. T, 2. T, 3. F, 4. F, 5. T, 6. F, 7. T, 8. F, 9. T, 10. T



**To save water,  
rinse your recyclables  
after washing dishes.**



**Remember the  
GREEN BIN RULE:  
If it didn't grow,  
it doesn't go.**



**Please  
Recycle Right**

[www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au](http://www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au)