

Marvellous Materials

This lesson covers what materials items are made from, what it means to recycle and why we should be recycling.

Objectives

- To identify and describe common materials.
- To learn what 'recycle' means.
- To identify some items that can be recycled.
- To begin to understand why recycling is a good idea.

Lesson Outline

Discussion:	Show children some common waste items e.g. plastic bottle, yoghurt pot, scrunched up newspaper, glass jar*, aluminum can*, scrunched up kitchen foil* etc. Do they know what each item is made from? Clarify the difference between product and material. Where do our materials come from? Show pictures of sand, a tree, aluminium mine etc.
Activity:	Put all of the materials into a feely bag and invite one child at a time to place a hand inside, feel one of the objects and describe it to the rest of the class. The class can guess which material and object they think is being described. *Take care with glass/sharp edges on metal items.
Discussion:	What would happen if all these things were thrown away? Show landfill image and discuss need to mine/grow new materials to replace them.
Discussion/Activity:	What's the alternative? Can they be recycled? If so, what can they be made into? Act out the journey a glass bottle takes from the recycling bin through the recycling process. Children can make appropriate movements/ sound effects.
Activity:	Finish the session by asking children to sort and stick pictures of recyclable items onto a recycling bin/bag/box picture, mount on card and attach a magnet.

Resources you will need:

- Photo of landfill and material sources.
- Recycle bin.
- Recyclables pictures.
- Feely bag and selection of clean (and safe to handle) waste.
- Scissors, glue, magnets, cardboard, coloured pencils/pens.

