Recycling themed activity ideas

| Curriculum area & aims | Activities with curriculum links | Links/extra information |
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| Art Produce creative work Become proficient in a range of craft and design techniques | Recycled 'junk' modelling (KS1) - Use a range of materials creatively Talk about what recycling is, why it's important and what kinds of things can be recycled. Help children to select items that can be recycled at home from a selection of clean rubbish. Ask them to use only the recyclable items to create a junk model. You could give them a theme, such as 'junk monsters' to help keep the session more focussed. | www.norfolkrecycles .com/bins-at- home/my-recycling- bin/ https://www.recycle now.com/recycling- knowledge/facts- and-info/10-things |
| | Recycled sculpture (KS2) - Improve mastery of techniques, including sculpture, with a range of materials Discuss the importance of recycling and investigate what items can be recycled at home. Are there any items/materials that surprise you? Ask the children to design & create a recycled sculpture, using a range of different recyclable materials, that helps people to understand & remember what can be recycled. Remember to include some unusual items that may often be forgotten. Think about an appropriate form for the sculpture. | |
| DT Develop creative, technical & practical expertise | Recycled puppets - Design, make, evaluate & use technical knowledge Use recyclable materials to design and make a puppet. Ensure the children are clear about what items can be recycled before allowing them to make their material selections. Specify what should be included, i.e. moving parts. Think about the purpose — to promote reuse/recycling or highlight issues with dropping litter etc. | www.norfolkrecycles .com/bins-at- home/my-recycling- bin/ |
| Maths Become fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics | Packaging shapes - Geometry – properties of shapes Using a selection of items that can be recycled (e.g. a toothpaste box, a food can, an ice-cream tub, Toblerone box, a juice carton, a smarties tube etc) discuss & identify the properties of the various different shapes. Group them into shape families. | |

| Science Working scientifically | Sorting recyclable materials - Everyday materials Sort & group recyclable items according to the properties of the materials they're made from, including hardness, transparency, whether it's magnetic etc. Can the shapes of any of the objects be changed by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching? Why are the different items made from their particular material? What makes it suitable for the intended purpose of the item? Would any other materials be suitable for the same purpose? Why/why not? | |
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| English Write clearly, accurately & coherently, adapting language & style for a range of contexts, purposes & audiences Read with good understanding, for both pleasure & information | Recycling play - Written language - Spoken language (drama) Having previously read & studied play scripts, write a script for a short performance to promote recycling/waste reduction. Ensure the children are clear about what recycling is and why it's important before they begin the task. If the DT puppet making task has been completed you could write a script for the puppets to perform a show to promote recycling. Alternatively a script could be produced for the children to perform a short play about recycling. Present the performance to the class/year group/school. | www.norfolkrecycles .com/learning- zone/why-recycle/ |
| Use discussion in order to learn | Recycling reading café - Reading - Spoken language Why not invite parents into school to share a book about recycling with their children and then complete a linked craft activity together to reinforce the message? | Book list |
| PE Develop competence to excel in a broad range of physical activities | Rubbish dances - Perform dances using simple movement patterns If a puppet show/play has been created, children could put together the choreography for the show. They could create dances with the puppets or think about interesting ways they could move around their performance space. | |

Music

Learn to sing & use their voices and to create & compose music on their own & with others

Junk instruments

- Play tuned & untuned instruments rhythmically (KS1)
- Improvise & compose music for a range of purposes (KS2)

Present the children with a selection of recyclable items and ask them to think about the kinds of sounds they could make with them. How could you play them? Try them out!

Could the items be adapted to enhance the sound/playability? Maybe add a handle, some strings or fill with something to create a shaker. What about using a beater to hit the instrument?

Ask the children to create some instruments out of the recyclable materials.

Use the instruments to make some music. Maybe the class could be divided up according to the material their instrument is made from? Each group could play their instruments in turn and the class could notice the different types of sound created by the different materials.

Rubbish music

- Play tuned & untuned instruments rhythmically (KS1)
- Improvise & compose music for a range of purposes (KS2)

If the class have made puppets/written a script for a puppet show/play, they could create some music to accompany it.

This could be done using junk instruments or standard instruments.