

SCHOOL WASTE AUDIT

Name: _____ Grade: _____

INTRODUCTION

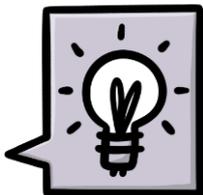
What is waste?

Waste are items that are thrown away because we no longer have need of or use them (e.g. food packaging is no longer suitable after a single use). We all play a role in the production of waste, whether we know it or not!

Why should you care?

Most of our waste ends up in landfills (the dump). Simply sending waste here is not sustainable.

- The more we throw away the more we need to replace it.
- As waste in the landfills breaks down it releases greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.
- We are running out of space to put our landfills.
- Toxins from materials like batteries get into our water and soil.
- Land used for landfills means less land for animals and plants.
- We lose precious valuables.



Did you know? The Olympic medals from Tokyo 2021 were made from recycled materials recovered from laptops and smartphones.

Schools create heaps of waste, BUT they can also be a big part of the solution in reducing this impact.

What is a waste audit?

A waste audit looks at the type and amount of waste your school produces. We can use this information to rethink your school's waste process and reduce waste!



Audit Preparation Hints

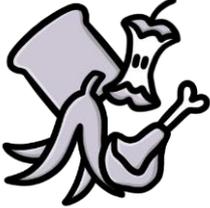
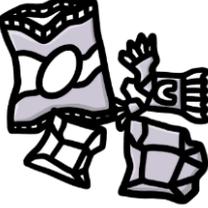
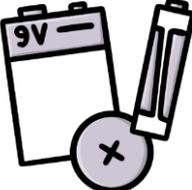
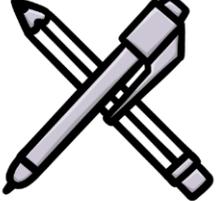
- **Identify an 'average' school day on which you will audit your school's waste** (not during extraordinary events, the end of term, or when groups are out of school).
- **Do your audit in the morning**, less heat means less smell...
- **Pick a day without wind**, you don't want to become unintentional litterbugs.
- Be aware of health and safety issues. **Gloves must be worn** by anyone before touching any waste.

ACTIVITY

School Waste Audit

1. Split into groups of 3-4 learners
2. Each group will get one bin. Dustbins should be selected from areas all around the school.
3. Lay down a large piece of plastic on the floor (this helps with cleaning up).
4. Create areas for different types of waste and label these clearly (the table will give some ideas).
5. Collect your bins.
6. Gloves on and start sorting your rubbish.
7. Count the different items in each group. Use the tally system to keep count.
8. Fill in Table 1, production. **Please note each bin/area requires a new table.**
9. Try and calculate the waste production for the whole school using Table 2.
10. Discuss and reflect.
11. Commit to change and plan.

Waste Identification Sheet

			
Food	Cardboard	Plastic Wrappers	Styrofoam
			
Paper	Straws	Glass Bottles & Jars	Food Containers
			
Plastic Bottles	Aluminium Cans	Batteries	Magazines, Books & Newspapers
			
Aluminium Foil	Pens & Pencils	Dirty Paper	Paper Packaging
			
Lollipop Sticks	Erasers		

PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION & WASTE

Grade 4 - 7 Audit

Single Dustbin

Items found	Tally	Total
Plastic wrappers (<i>chips, sweets, sandwiches, etc.</i>)		
Plastic straws		
Lollipop sticks		
Plastic food containers (<i>juice boxes and pouches, cups, yoghurt containers, etc.</i>)		
Styrofoam		
Dirty paper (<i>paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, paper cups</i>)		
Glass Bottles/ Jars		
Plastic Bottles / Containers		
Metal/Aluminium Cans		
Cardboard		
Paper packaging (<i>brown paper bags, etc.</i>)		
Paper used on one side		
Paper used on both sides		
Magazines, books, newspapers		
Plastic bags		
Aluminium foil		

PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION & WASTE

Grade 4 - 7 Audit

Pens and pencils		
Erasers		
Batteries		
Other		

Total School Waste Audit

Items found	Bin 1	Bin 2	Bin 3	Bin 4	Bin 5	Bin 6	Total
Plastic wrappers (<i>chips, sweets, sandwiches, etc.</i>)							
Plastic straws							
Lollipop sticks							
Plastic food containers (<i>juice boxes and pouches, cups, yoghurt containers, etc.</i>)							
Styrofoam							
Dirty paper (<i>paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, paper cups</i>)							
Glass Bottles/ Jars							
Plastic Bottles / Containers							
Metal/Aluminium Cans							
Cardboard							

PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION & WASTE

Grade 4 - 7 Audit

Paper packaging (<i>brown paper bags, etc.</i>)							
Paper used on one side							
Magazines, books, newspapers							
Plastic bags							
Aluminium foil							
Pens and pencils							
Erasers							
Batteries							
Other							

DISCUSSION

Discussion time!

- What was the most common waste item found?

- What was the yuckiest waste item you found?

- What items do you think should have been recycled?

- Did you find any single use plastics? If so, what did you find?

ACTION PLANNING

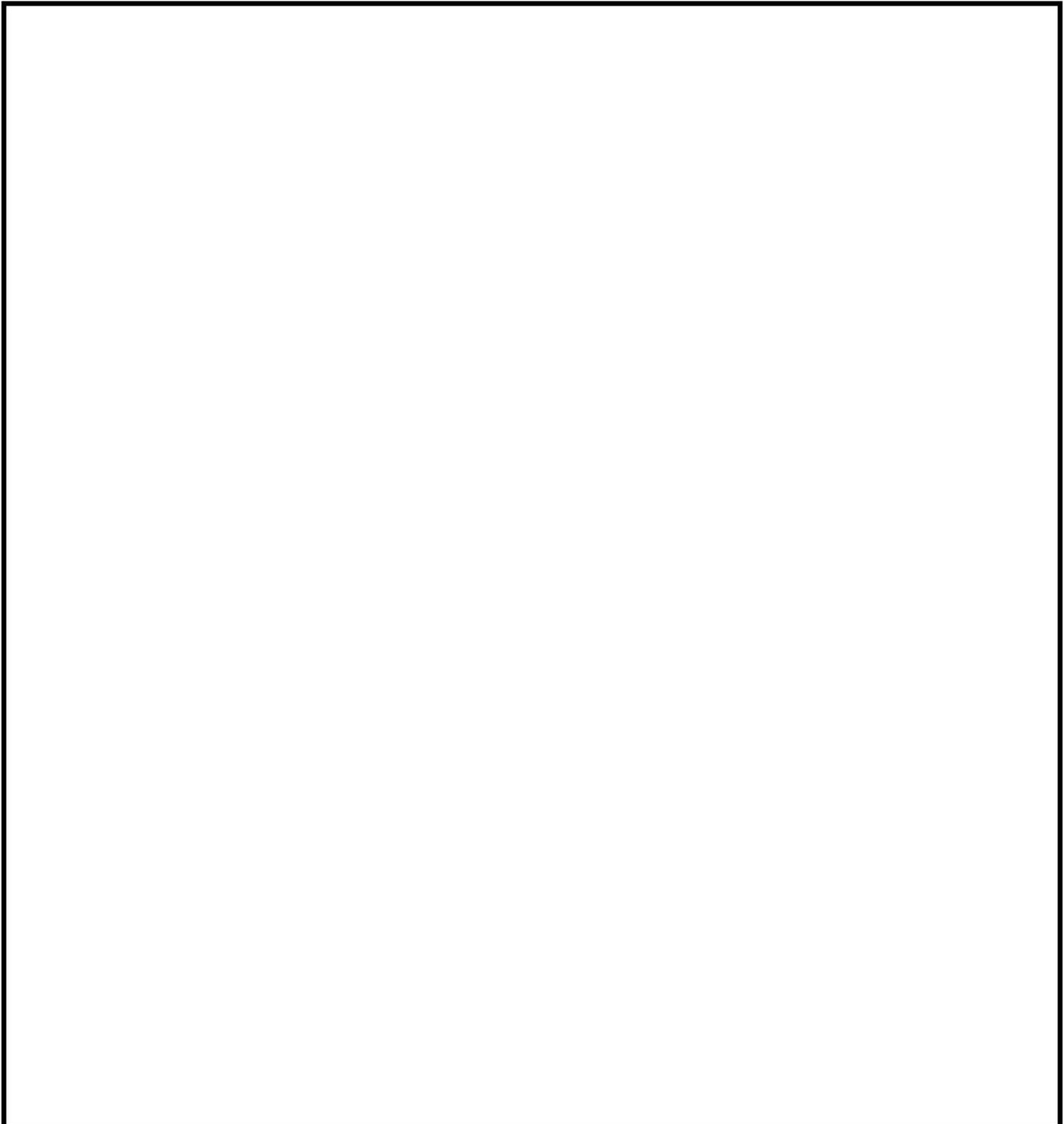
- Write down one item that we can use as a replacement for the following items, the first one has been done for you:

<p>Plastic Water Bottle</p>		<p>Plastic Straw</p>	
<p><i>Metal re-usable water bottle</i></p>			
<p>Sandwich wrap</p>		<p>Plastic shopping bag</p>	
<p>Plastic knives and forks</p>		<p>Styrofoam containers</p>	

TAKING ACTION

What can I do?

Design a poster, showing other learners, the correct way to dispose of your waste.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for students to draw a poster about waste disposal.