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Activity ideas – KS1 materials and counting – sorting rubbish

Learning objectives

Litter is made out of lots of different materials. You are going to help pupils learn about the different materials the items of rubbish consist of, help them understand what properties materials have and which bin the item belongs in.

Curriculum links

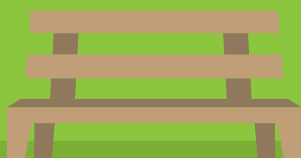
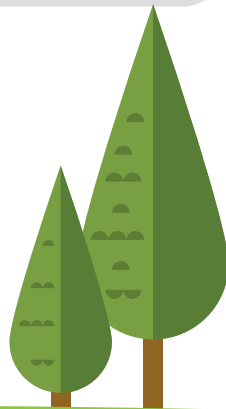
KS1 Science every day materials (sorting and describing) and KS1 maths counting up to 100.

Resources

- KS1 materials worksheet (and glue or sticky tape if you would like the pupils to stick litter onto the worksheet)
- 4 bins labelled with the four materials; wood/paper, plastic, metal and other
- A bag of rubbish

Class teacher needs to provide a bag of clean litter/rubbish to use in the activities. This could be litter that the pupils have picked up during the litter pick, or rubbish that they have put in the class bins over the past week or even brought in from home. Some examples of rubbish could be crisp bags, cans, sweet wrappers, plastic bottles, plastic rings for holding cans, leaflets, sheets of paper that the children have thrown away in class.

(Note: do not include glass bottles just in case they break. Compostable items such as apple cores and banana skins can be messy and/or smelly).



Activity ideas

Empty the bag of rubbish on the floor.

Ask the pupils;

- “What is this?”
- “Where should we always put litter?”
- “Where else can we sometimes find litter?”
- “What is rubbish made of?” (Answer: Rubbish is made of lots of different types of materials)

Choose the pupils to come up, pick up a piece of rubbish and put it in the right bin!

Help the class to sort the rubbish into the right four material bins;

- Wood/paper
- Plastic
- Metal
- Other

Get groups of pupils to count how many pieces of rubbish there are in each of the bins.

Ask the pupils;

- “Which type of material is most of the rubbish made of?”
- “Which material bin has the fewest pieces of rubbish in it?”
- “How many pieces of litter do we have in total?”

Hand out the KS1 materials worksheet to all of the pupils and help them to fill it in. Pupils need to draw, stick or write the name of one piece of rubbish into each of the four material boxes on their worksheet. Encourage the pupils to use a descriptive word for each of the pieces of rubbish they have chosen.

Ask pupils

- “Which piece of rubbish is the hardest?”
- “Is any of the rubbish waterproof?”
- “Is any of the rubbish transparent?”

Discussion opportunity; Ask pupils to describe and compare the properties of the different materials, use descriptive words;

Ask pupils

- “Is metal more shiny than paper?”
- “Is all plastic transparent?”
- “Is wood stronger than paper?”

