

Lesson Plan 1: Introducing the 3 R's!

Learning Objectives:

- Observe, collect and record information in the field.
- Extend geographical vocabulary

Introduction:

Introduce the concept of the 3 R's- 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle'. (See [teachers Fact Sheet 1](#))

Play whole class 'Rubbish Sorting' game (Go to [GAMEZONE- Game 1](#))

Suggested Activities:

Lower Juniors: Work in small groups to collect litter from around the school grounds. Come together as a whole class and discuss findings. Sort litter into 4 large hoops using the following categories: Reduce, recycle, re-use, compost. (See [teacher example sheet a](#)). Individually complete [pupil worksheet 1](#) by recording findings using words and/or pictures. Transfer results onto whole class bar graph and/or tally chart.

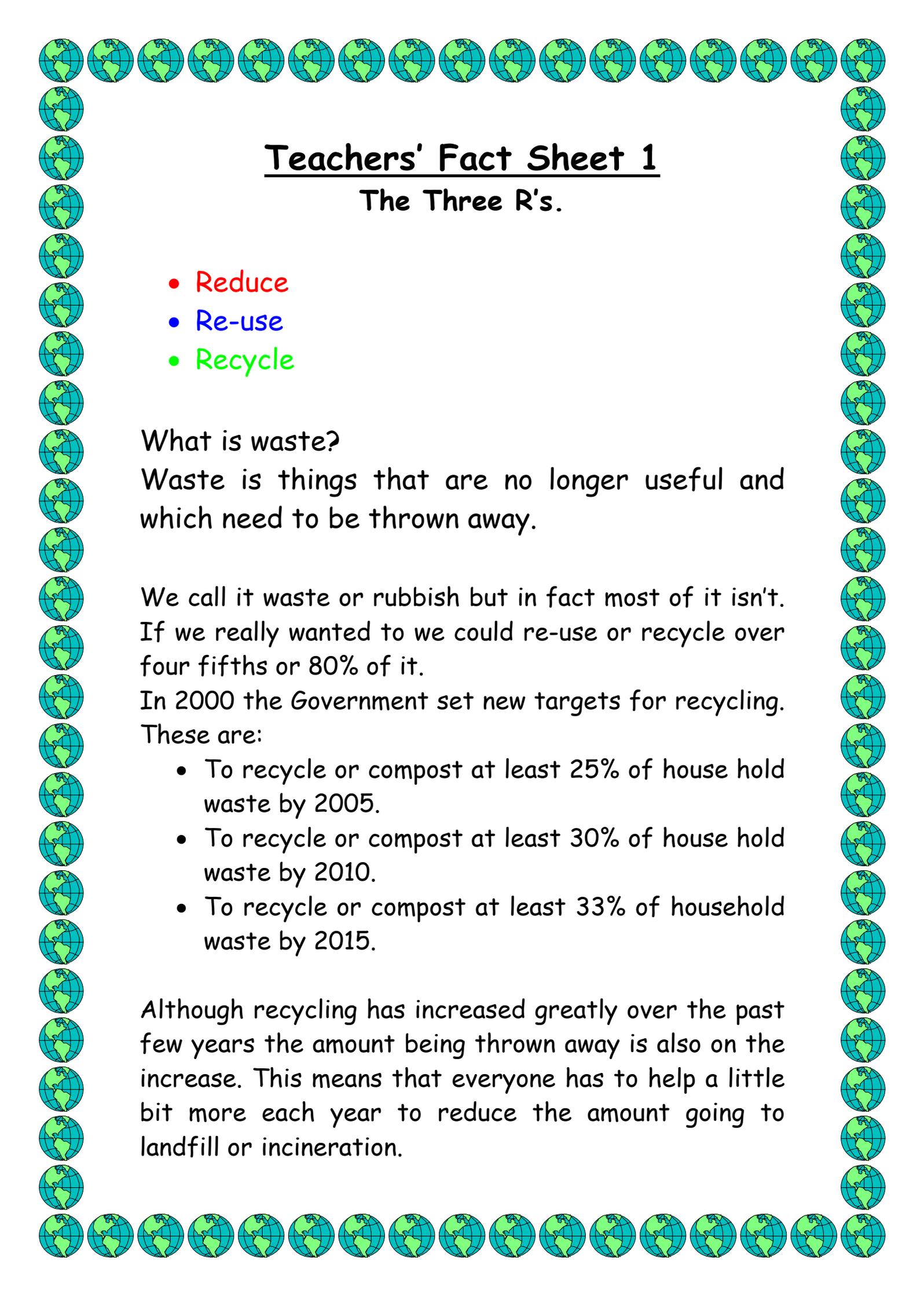
Upper Juniors:

Work in 4 small groups to collect litter from 4 specified locations around the school, for example- school playground, entrance to school, behind storage areas, kitchen areas etc. In groups analyse findings. Sort litter into the following categories: Reduce, recycle, re-use, compost. (See [teacher example sheet a](#)). Individually complete [pupil worksheet 1](#) by recording findings using words and/or pictures. Transfer group results onto a bar graph and/or tally chart. Each group to report their findings back to the rest of the class.

Plenary:

Whole class discussion on findings.

(Teacher Note: Keep all bar / tally charts for use in following lesson.)

A decorative border of small globe icons surrounds the entire page. The top border consists of 20 globes, the bottom border of 20, the left side of 18, and the right side of 18. Each globe shows the Americas in green and blue oceans.

Teachers' Fact Sheet 1

The Three R's.

- Reduce
- Re-use
- Recycle

What is waste?

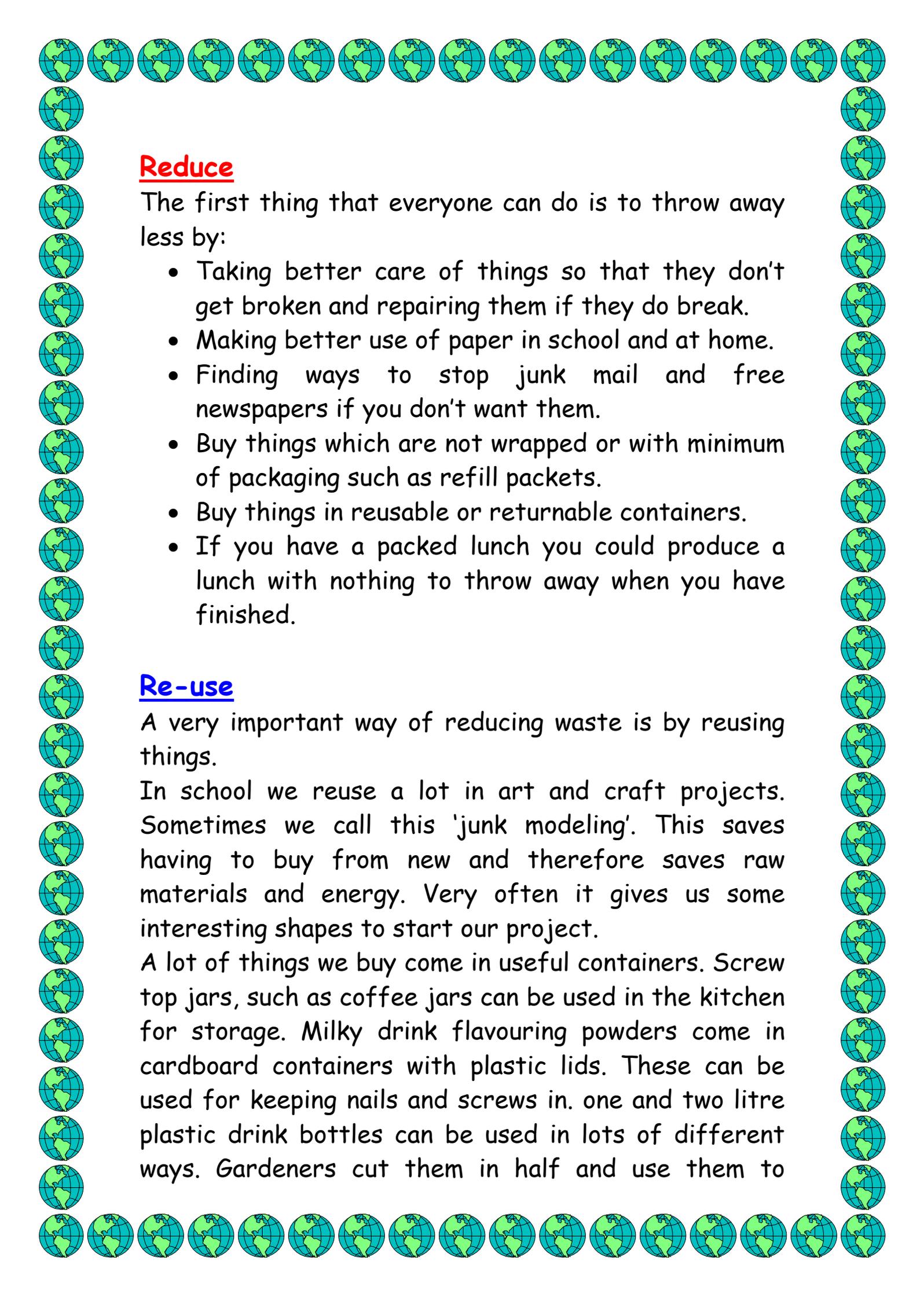
Waste is things that are no longer useful and which need to be thrown away.

We call it waste or rubbish but in fact most of it isn't. If we really wanted to we could re-use or recycle over four fifths or 80% of it.

In 2000 the Government set new targets for recycling. These are:

- To recycle or compost at least 25% of house hold waste by 2005.
- To recycle or compost at least 30% of house hold waste by 2010.
- To recycle or compost at least 33% of household waste by 2015.

Although recycling has increased greatly over the past few years the amount being thrown away is also on the increase. This means that everyone has to help a little bit more each year to reduce the amount going to landfill or incineration.



Reduce

The first thing that everyone can do is to throw away less by:

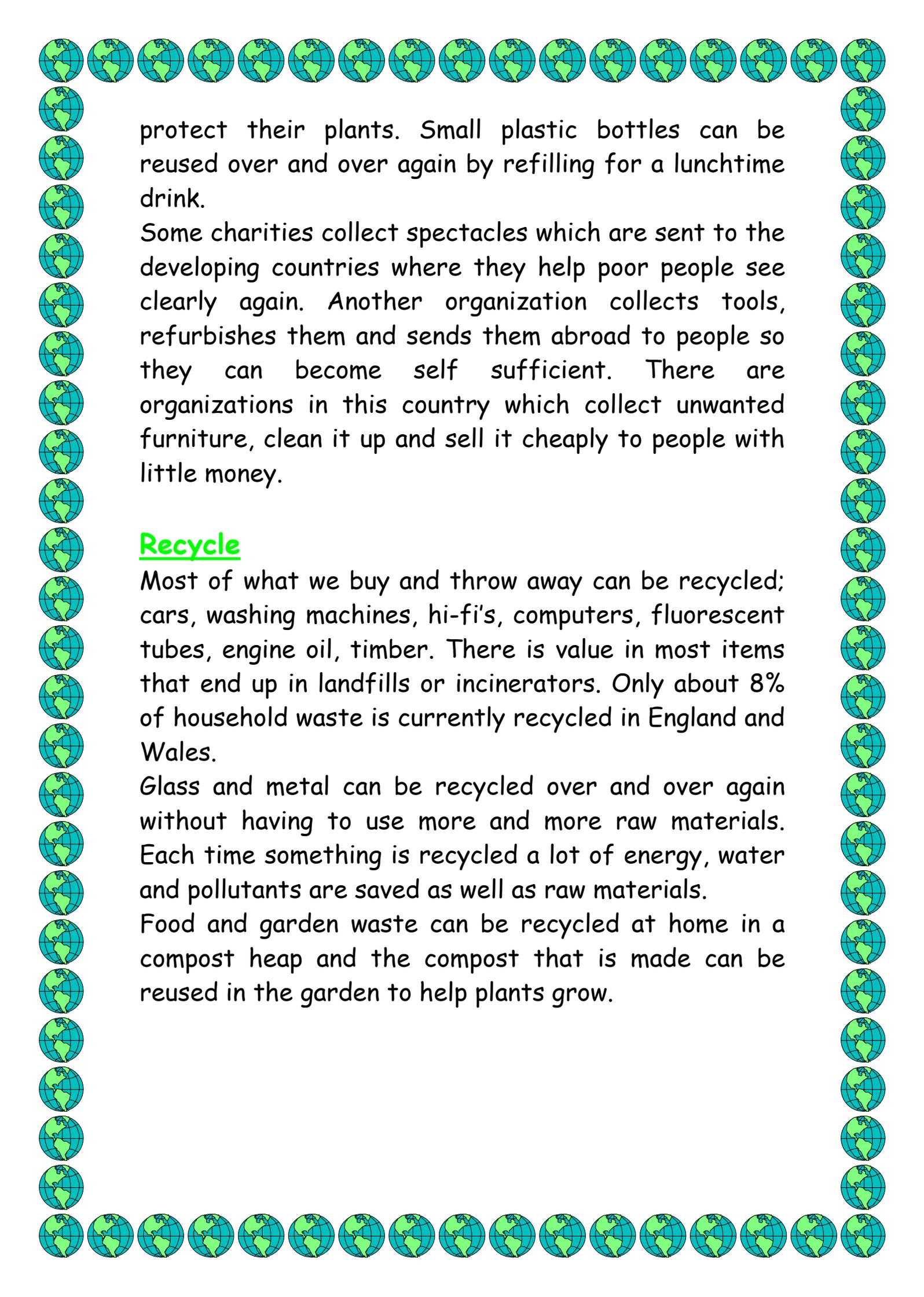
- Taking better care of things so that they don't get broken and repairing them if they do break.
- Making better use of paper in school and at home.
- Finding ways to stop junk mail and free newspapers if you don't want them.
- Buy things which are not wrapped or with minimum of packaging such as refill packets.
- Buy things in reusable or returnable containers.
- If you have a packed lunch you could produce a lunch with nothing to throw away when you have finished.

Re-use

A very important way of reducing waste is by reusing things.

In school we reuse a lot in art and craft projects. Sometimes we call this 'junk modeling'. This saves having to buy from new and therefore saves raw materials and energy. Very often it gives us some interesting shapes to start our project.

A lot of things we buy come in useful containers. Screw top jars, such as coffee jars can be used in the kitchen for storage. Milky drink flavouring powders come in cardboard containers with plastic lids. These can be used for keeping nails and screws in. one and two litre plastic drink bottles can be used in lots of different ways. Gardeners cut them in half and use them to



protect their plants. Small plastic bottles can be reused over and over again by refilling for a lunchtime drink.

Some charities collect spectacles which are sent to the developing countries where they help poor people see clearly again. Another organization collects tools, refurbishes them and sends them abroad to people so they can become self sufficient. There are organizations in this country which collect unwanted furniture, clean it up and sell it cheaply to people with little money.

Recycle

Most of what we buy and throw away can be recycled; cars, washing machines, hi-fi's, computers, fluorescent tubes, engine oil, timber. There is value in most items that end up in landfills or incinerators. Only about 8% of household waste is currently recycled in England and Wales.

Glass and metal can be recycled over and over again without having to use more and more raw materials. Each time something is recycled a lot of energy, water and pollutants are saved as well as raw materials.

Food and garden waste can be recycled at home in a compost heap and the compost that is made can be reused in the garden to help plants grow.

Sorting our waste

- Energy e.g. lights
- Water e.g. taps in the toilets
- Noise

REDUCE

RECYCLE

- Cans
- Glass
- Newspaper

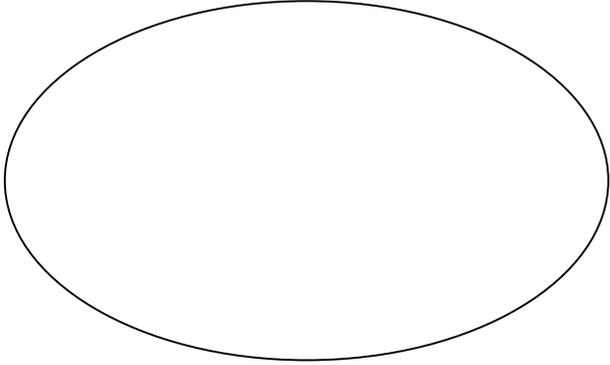
- Paper
- Plastic bags
- Old clothes

RE-USE

COMPOST

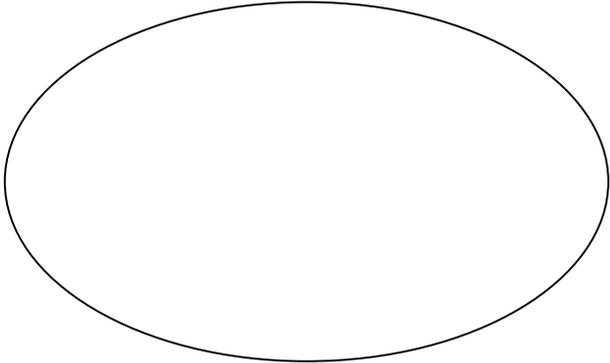
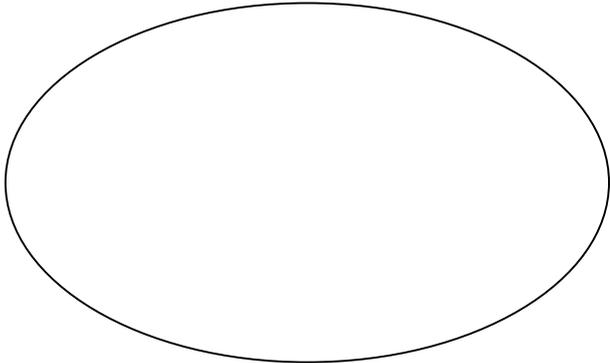
- Fruit e.g. banana skins
- Grass cuttings

Sorting our waste



REDUCE

RECYCLE



RE-USE

COMPOST

