

Topic: Sustainability

Lesson 1: Re-using things	KS or Year Group: KS3
Resources: <ol style="list-style-type: none">Resource 1 – Examples of re-using thingsResource 2 – Images of reusable bags	Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Students learn about different recycling options.Students are able to design a product from recycled materials.

National Curriculum

Key Processes: 2.1b, 2.3a, 2.3b, 2.3c
Range and Content: 3e

Lesson 1

This aim of this lesson is to give students an introduction to the practice of re-using products that they would otherwise throw away, thereby helping them become more aware of the ecological consequences of their choices as a consumer. The main activity of the lesson challenges the students to design their own bag or product out of recycled materials.

Starter

- Students are shown a 'bag for life' from Sainsburys or Tesco. They are then shown an ordinary plastic bag from a supermarket. Ask them to name some of the differences between the two in terms of style, texture, etc.
- Students are asked to name things that they use more than once at home, e.g. jam jars, plastic containers to keep food in, rubber bands, etc. Perhaps make this a little competition to see whose household re-uses the most things.
- Now ask students asked to name any more things they could re-use with a little thought or effort, e.g. tin cans as flower pots.
- Distribute copies of **Resource 1 – Examples of re-using things**. Ask students to read the sheet and put a cross next to the items that they had not thought of re-

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using. Hold a brief class discussion on how easy or hard it might be to implement these ideas at home.

Main activity

Activity 1:

- Distribute copies of **Resource 2 – Images of re-usable bags**. These images should highlight that bags made from recycled materials can be fashionable and fun. Ask students to vote on which bag they think is the best and why, followed by a brief class discussion on the subject.










Activity 2:

- Split the class into five groups. Challenge each group to design their own bag (or another product of their choice, after discussion with the teacher). Before they start, ask each student to think about which type of person they are aiming for. Each group should try to design their product for a different sector of the market, e.g. housewives; old people; children under 10; boys over 12 and girls over 12.
- Ask students to think about the style, lettering, colour, writing and material that the bag or bottle when designed for a particular market. What would appeal to their market sector?
- Finally ask them to give their product a name, accompanied by a brief one-line description. Each group will give a presentation on their product in the next lesson.







Plenary

A summary of the main findings would include the nature of re-useable products and the need for new ideas to re-use more everyday products.

Resource 1 – Examples of re-using things

	Re-usable items
	<p>Carrier bags and twist ties</p> <p>Carrier bags can be reused in the shops or as bin bags around the house. Paper bags make useful wrapping paper and twist ties can be used to secure loose items together, such as computer wires.</p>
	<p>Envelopes</p> <p>By sticking labels over the address you can reuse envelopes. Alternatively, old envelopes can be used as scrap paper to make notes on.</p>
	<p>Jars and pots</p> <p>By cleaning glass jars and small pots, you can use them as small containers to store odds and ends.</p>
	<p>Newspaper, cardboard and bubble wrap</p> <p>Make useful packing material when moving house or to store items.</p>
	<p>Old clothes</p> <p>Can be made into other textile items such as cushion covers or teapot cosies.</p>
	<p>Packaging</p> <p>Such as foil and egg cartons can be donated to schools and nurseries, where they can be use in art and craft projects.</p>
	<p>Scrap paper</p> <p>Can be used to make notes and sketches. Don't forget to recycle it when you no longer need it.</p>
	<p>Tyres</p> <p>Old tyres can be given to your local petrol station where they will be recycled. Or you could make a tyre-swing by tying a strong rope around a tyre and attaching it to a tree.</p>
	<p>Used wood</p> <p>Can be used in woodcrafts for making objects such as a spice rack or a bird table. Alternatively it could be used as firewood.</p>

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	Useful items
	Old Electrical Equipment Donate old electrical equipment to schools or community centers so that others can reuse them.
	Donate Old Clothes and Books Other people can reuse your unwanted clothes and books when you donate them to charity shops.
	Car-boot Sale Have a car-boot sale and get rid of some unwanted items. Other people may find a use for them, plus it gives you the opportunity to earn some extra cash.
	Rechargeable Batteries Rechargeable batteries can be reused many times before they need throwing away, opposed to regular batteries that create unnecessary waste.
	Build a Compost Bin You can reuse many waste items, such as eggshells and old tea bags, using a compost bin. This waste then degrades and turns into compost that can be used to help your garden grow.
	Grass Cycling After mowing your lawn, instead of throwing the grass cuttings away, leave them in your garden. The nutrients from the cuttings go back into the soil and act as a fertiliser.

Resource 2 – Examples of re-useable bags

