RECYCLING

"We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children."

Native American proverb

1. Recycling Discussion

1. What is recycling? Why is it important?
2. Which things can be recycled? Which things cannot be recycled?
3. Do you recycle? What things do you recycle? Do you feel like you're making a difference when you recycle?
4. What things do you throw away that you think should be recycled?
5. How can we get more people to recycle?
6. Should recycling be obligatory? Should there be fines for people who don't recycle?
7. Do you think more people would recycle if there were some kind of reward?
8. What does your government do to encourage recycling? Is it enough?

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2. Recycling Vocabulary

- **single-use / disposable** (adjective) – *a product that is designed to be used only once and then thrown away.*
- **reusable** (adjective) – *a product that can be used many times.*
- **biodegradable** (adjective) – *material that will naturally degrade when it is thrown away.*
- **environmentally friendly** (adjective) – *something which does not harm the environment.*
- **landfill** (noun) – *a large area of land used for disposing waste.*
- **microplastics** (noun) – *microscopic pieces of plastic that have contaminated the environment, especially in water.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun)

1. McDonald's introduced **biodegradable** paper straws in a bid to help the environment, but nobody could drink their milkshakes through them.
2. If you buy coffee from a coffee shop, remember to take a **reusable** flask so you don't have to take a paper cup.
3. A recent study found that **microplastics** were present in over 90% of bottled water.
4. **Single-use** plastic straws are one of the most widely used plastic products that pollute the oceans.
5. Local residents protested when they heard of the plans to construct a **landfill** site near to their neighbourhood.
6. Our office has begun using recycled paper in a bid to become more **environmentally friendly**.

Recycling vocabulary comprehension questions

1. What single use products have you used?
2. What items do you own that are reusable?
3. Can you think of anything that is biodegradable?
4. What products do you use that are environmentally friendly?
5. Are there any landfills near your town? What do the local residents think of them?
6. Are you concerned about microplastics in the water you drink?

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3. Video: The Life of a Plastic Bottle

You are going to watch a TED Ed video called "What really happens to the plastic you throw away."

Watch the video here: https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-recycling/

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. What is plastic made from?

   a) oil *b) metal* *c) coal*

2. What happens to plastic pellets before they are made into products?

   a) frozen ***b) melted*** *c) vapourised*

3. What does rainwater in landfills absorb?

   a) toxic chemicals *b) biological contaminants* *c) radioactive material*

4. How long can it take for a plastic bottle to decompose in a landfill?

   a) 100 years ***b) 1,000 years*** *c) 1,000,000 years*

Sentence completion

5. Bottles thrown in streams will eventually arrive at the **ocean**.
6. Bottles get trapped in vortexes which collect **trash/garbage/plastic debris**.
7. **Seabirds** and other animals mistake plastic for food.
8. Animals that eat plastic pass the toxins up the **food chain**.

Short answer

9. Which sea creature eats squids? **Tuna**
10. How long might microplastics remain in the sea? **Eternally**
11. What happens to the plastic blocks after they are shredded into tiny pieces? **Washed and melted**
12. Recycled bottles can be reborn as what? **Something completely new**

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4. Recycling Conversation Questions

1. How does recycling help the environment?
2. How can recycling paper help to combat climate change?
3. Why do some people not recycle?
4. Would you wear second-hand clothes to help the environment? Why or why not?
5. What should schools teach children about recycling?
6. Which countries do you think have a good reputation for recycling? Which do you think have a bad reputation?
7. Which is better: recycling or buying only the things we really need?
8. Do you think people will recycle more or less in the future? How would the world be in the future if nothing were recycled?

5. Recycling Writing Task

Write about why recycling is important. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, include the following topics:

- Why recycling is important to protect the environment.
- What people can do to recycle.
- How more people can be encouraged to recycle.

Alternative exam practice question:

Recycling has been promoted as an activity that can contribute to solving many of the environmental problems the Earth is facing today. How can recycling help the environment, and what can be done to encourage more people to recycle?

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