



## Overview

Students have the opportunity to complete a 'mini project' on recycling with the aim of presenting their findings to the school through a class assembly. After an initial brainstorming activity to elicit what they know about recycling, students could then be split into collaborative working groups to further their understanding of recycling. They could then carry out various activities that will demonstrate to other students how important recycling is and the impact it has on our daily lives. These may include:

- Facts and figures on recycling<sup>1</sup>
- The history of recycling
- Materials that we can recycle
- The process of recycling, e.g. glass
- Making paper
- Using recycled materials for designing and making, e.g. jewellery or art



## Materials

- Mind map template
- Access to computers to research artists who work with recycled materials<sup>2</sup>
- Sketch books to design jewellery or objects made from recycled materials
- Art materials – paints, felt tip pens, glue etc.
- Recycled materials including bottle tops, buttons, containers, boxes, old CDs etc.

## Lesson Preparation

Prior to the lesson:

- Encourage students to bring in unwanted objects like buttons, beads, bottle tops, old CDs, twigs, pebbles etc. that could be recycled into new objects, e.g. in jewellery design.

## Introductory Lesson (50 minutes)

Explain to the students that you would like them to work together to present a whole class assembly to the school on recycling. Start by asking students to work in pairs to discuss everything they know about recycling. Then bring the class back together to share their information. This could be recorded on a mind map template that is accessible through the science tools. Then ask students to think about what they would like to find out about recycling. It may be that they will need prompting to ask questions such as 'What can I make with objects that I don't need anymore?' Using this information, split the class into collaborative working groups allocating each a task related to what they wanted to research or work on. The prompt list of activities in the overview section may be useful when assigning activities.

## Follow up Lessons

During these lessons students will need to work collaboratively to complete their assigned tasks.

## Class Assembly

For those who finish their activity, encourage them to design publicity material inviting other classes to attend the assembly. Inviting a recycling officer to watch the assembly and talk to the students may be an interesting addition to the assembly.

<sup>1</sup> Facts and figures on recycling are available on council and official Government websites.

<sup>2</sup> Information on artists who use recycling as a focus for their art is available on the internet. Examples are David Edgar, Tim Noble and Susan Webster and Dutch artist Enno de Kroon.