

Think Recycling

The Recycling Loop: Key stage 3 additional activities.

Multiple choice questions at the end of each section allow the key points to be reinforced. These suggested activities can be used to extend the loop video further if required.

Stages in the Recycling Loop

Stage	Summary	Extension activity
1	Purchase and consumption	Have the children keep a week-long diary to record the number of aluminium drink cans they use. Also note how they have disposed of them.
2	Recycling	Discussion on how they could encourage more recycling in school or at home. Create a list of 'action points' that the children could do. E.g. put all aluminium cans in a bin in the school yard to keep them separate from other waste. Extend this by using the Enterprise activity on the Think Cans web site to set up a Cash for Cans scheme.
3	Reprocessing	The typical weight for an aluminium can is about 12g. Each bale of aluminium cans in the reprocessing plant weighs 360kg. How many cans are there in a bale? Difficult but convert can weight from g into kg (i.e. 1 can = 0.12kg). Then divide 360kg by 0.12kg = 3000 cans.
4	Sheet production	Use plasticine and a roller to show how the aluminium is rolled and thinned. This is an example of a physical change.
5	Can making	Investigate how to make a can, with both ends filled, from a flat sheet of paper. This is the process required to turn the flat aluminium sheet into a can. Practice writing clear instructions by writing (or using illustrations) how to make the can. Working in pairs, produce the instructions and then swap them to see if they can be successfully followed. Are they clear? What common errors are made?

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Stages in the Recycling Loop - Continued

Stage	Summary	Extension activity
6	Distribution	Draw a flow diagram to show the journey taken by an aluminium can in the whole recycling loop. Start with the can being bought in a shop, go through its use, recycling and return to the shop as an aluminium can.