

Think Recycling



Glossary

Impress your teacher, parents and friends! Use our Glossary to find out the meaning of any words that you're not familiar with, then you'll be a real expert.



Hi, I'm L-zero-zero-P but you can call me 'LOOP'

3 R's	A abbreviation that stands for 'reduce, reuse and recycle'
Alloy	A mixture of metals
Aluminium	A light, silvery metal that does not rust. It can be alloyed with other metals and used in many applications including packaging, transport and construction
Bauxite	A type of rock; the ore from which aluminium is made
Carbon dioxide	A colourless, odourless gas used for making fizzy drinks
Cash for cans	One way of recycling used aluminium drink cans
Casting	When a material is shaped, while molten, by a mould
Closed loop	The life cycle of a recyclable material, when it begins and ends with the same item.
Consumption	The act of eating or drinking something.
Conveyor	A moving belt that is used to carry objects or large quantities of material from one place to another
Corrode	When a material is slowly worn away following a reaction with another substance, for example steel corrodes (or rusts) when it comes into contact with air and water.
Distribution	The movement and delivery of goods around the country
Dross	A crusty layer formed on the top of molten aluminium in the furnace.
Furnace	An enclosed chamber where heat is used to melt metals
Ingot	A slab or bar of metal formed by casting molten aluminium
Kerbside recycling	These are schemes where households separate their recyclable materials into boxes, bags or bins and put them outside their homes, for collection by the local council or a waste contractor
Life cycle	The series of changes that occur over the life of animals, plants and other objects
Litter	Waste (usually paper, plastics and glass) thrown around in the environment, rather than being placed in a proper bin or other waste facility. Not all waste is litter but all litter is waste.
Magnet	A piece of iron or steel that attracts iron to it
Molten	Metal that is so hot it melts and becomes liquid

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Glossary (Continued)

Natural resources	Substances of use to humans that are derived either from the Earth (e.g. coal, oil and metal ores) or from living things.
Ore	A material that is mined so that its metal may be extracted
Packaging	A container or other material that is used to protect goods whilst they are being transported or stored
Purchase	To buy something
Raw materials	The basic resources used to make materials and products. For example, the raw material used in the manufacture of aluminium is bauxite
Reduce	Avoiding creating waste in the first place. Examples of waste reduction include buying items with less packaging and not replacing items until really necessary.
Recyclable	Something that can be recycled
Recycle	To process a material so that it can be used again. This can involve turning the old material into a new version of the same thing (see Closed Loop). Alternatively, materials can be recycled into something completely different
Resources	A general word for the things and materials that we obtain from the Earth. Resources can be classified in two ways. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • renewable resources are those that can replace themselves over a fairly short time scale. Examples include the water in a reservoir or crops which grow from year to year. • non-renewable resources can either never be replaced or take a very long time to replace. Examples include coal and oil.
Reuse	Using something again, either for the same purpose or for something completely different. Examples include returning milk bottles for refilling and repairing electrical goods when they go wrong instead of throwing them away.
Rubbish	Anything that we think we no longer have a use for and so throw away. Not the same as litter.
Steel	An alloy of iron and carbon. A strong, heavy metal widely used in everyday life for construction, transport and packaging.
Vaporise	When something changes state from a solid or liquid into a gas.
Waste	Anything that we think we no longer have a use for and so throw away.