

Geography Alive: Stage 2 (Topic 2: The Earth's Environment)

Lesson 3: Waste management strategies in our school		
<p>Content focus: In this lesson, students have the opportunity to focus on waste and waste management in their school. In doing so, students collect information relating to waste minimisation and recycling.</p>		<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Episodes of the ABC TV program <i>War on Waste</i> • Pens, coloured pencils and A3 paper.
<p>Key inquiry questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is waste and why is important that we minimise it? • How does your school handle waste? How do they encourage recycling? 	<p>Outcomes:</p> <p><i>A student:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and describe the range of wastes produced in our day-to-day way of life • collect and classify data in the field • presents the findings of their research in a graphic and pictorial form. 	<p>Lesson sequence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 1: Introduce students to the topic of waste and waste management (recycling) by linking it to the lesson on littering and showing them an episode (or clip) from the ABC TV program <i>War on Waste</i>. • Step 2: Investigating school-based initiatives to reduce waste. Organise students into small groups and ask them to investigate what the school does to reduce waste. For example, does the school have a recycling program, rubbish audits or clean-up days? Ask students to interview someone at the school, such as a teacher or the principal, to find out more. As part of their investigation, students take photographs, draw diagrams, and write a brief report summarising their findings. • Step 3: Ask your students if there is there more the school could do to reduce its waste. Conduct a brainstorming activity – focus question: How could the school improve its recycling program and minimise waste? • Step 4: Ask the class to consider how consumers can be persuaded to make better buying and recycling decisions. Students brainstorm a list of incentives and penalties that they think would make a difference. An example of an incentive is the discount that cafes give to customers who bring their reusable coffee cups instead of using a disposable coffee cup. Another incentive could be a refund paid to people who recycle drink containers. An example of a penalty is the small fee supermarkets now charge for the use of plastic bags. • Step 5: Ask students, working in groups, to develop a mind map illustrating the points raised in the discussion in Steps 3 and 4.