TALK ABOUT TEXTS

Recycle and Reduce Waste



Written by Cara Torrance

Recycle and Reduce Waste



For Review Only

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macmillan education

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Stop the Waste – Recycle!

Every day, we use and throw away glass, plastic, paper and food waste. Each person may create as much as 1500 kilograms of **waste** every year. All this waste has a big impact on the environment.



One family's waste for a year would fill up an average home.

Why Reduce Waste?

We can all reduce our waste by recycling. We can reduce the impact waste is having on our environment. We can reduce the amount of waste going into **landfills**, where it produces harmful **greenhouse gases**. Greenhouse gases cause global warming. Global warming causes Earth to get warmer. Polar ice melts and sea levels rise.

We can also take fewer raw materials from the environment to make new plastic, glass and paper items.

Everyone can help. By choosing to recycle at home and at school, you can make a big difference.

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Recycling Glass

Every day, we use lots of glass packaging. We use jars, bottles and other containers. Many of these glass items make their way into landfills. However, did you know that all glass packaging can be recycled? It can all be made into new glass items of the same quality. This means it can be recycled again and again.

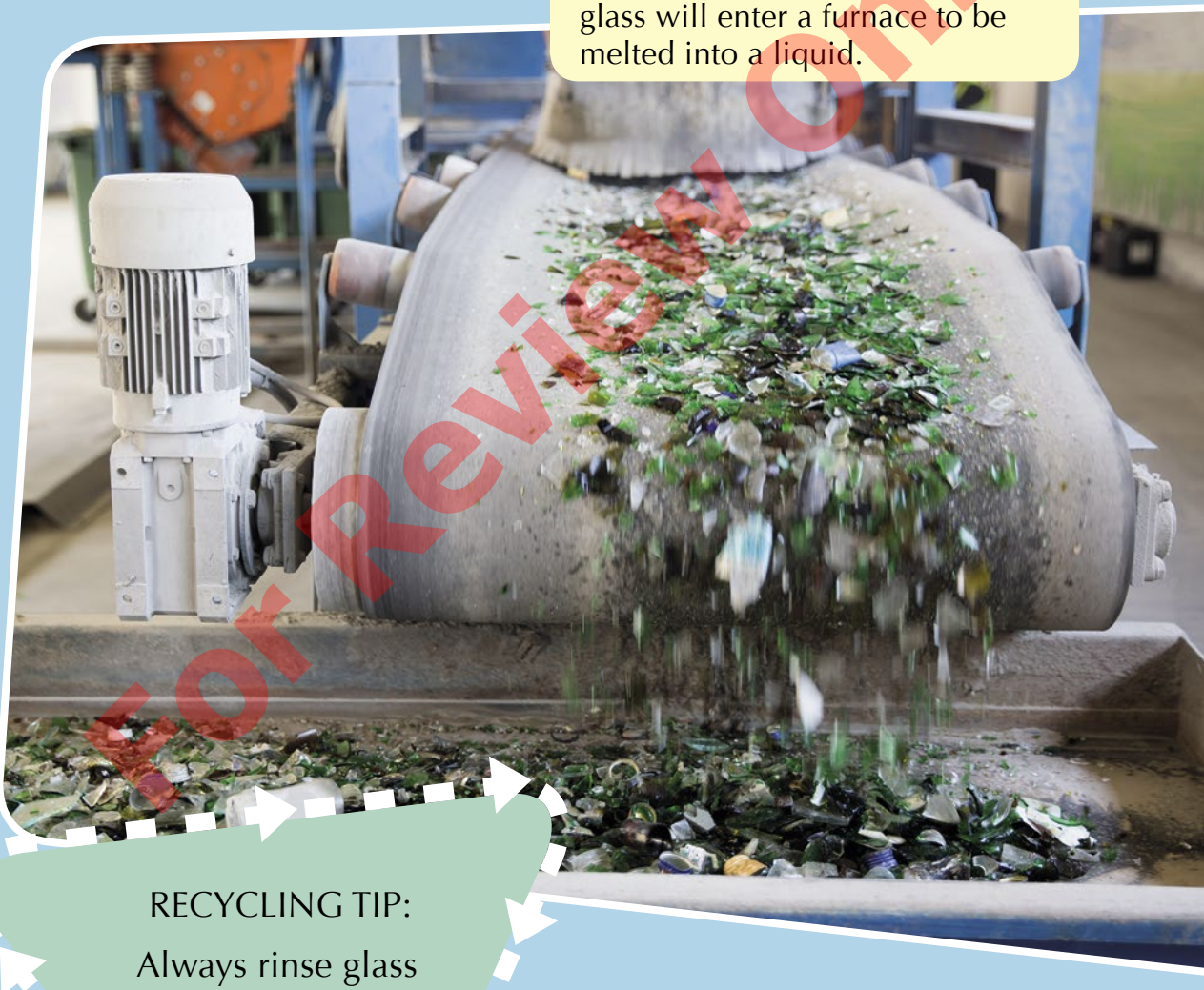
Recycling glass is better for the environment than making new glass. Recycled glass uses fewer resources and less energy to make than new glass. New glass is made from sand and other minerals, such as limestone and soda ash. When glass is recycled, the sand and minerals in it are re-used. Less energy is used because new sand and minerals do not need to be mined from the ground and transported to a glass factory.



Glass packaging can be re-used and recycled over and over again.

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Furnaces also burn less energy to make recycled glass than they do to make new glass. This is because they do not need to be so hot. As a result, they produce fewer **carbon emissions**. Recycling 1000 kilograms of glass stops 315 kilograms of carbon emissions from going into the **atmosphere**. However, recycling does still use energy. Re-use glass packaging whenever you can.



These pieces of crushed recycled glass will enter a furnace to be melted into a liquid.

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RECYCLING TIP:

Always rinse glass before putting it in the recycling bin.

How Glass Packaging is Recycled

Glass recycling begins when you put a glass jar or bottle into a recycling bin. A truck comes to pick up the glass and take it to a recycling plant. At the plant, the glass is sorted by its colour. It is then washed. Following this, it is crushed into small pieces. The crushed glass is called cullet.

The cullet passes into a furnace where it is melted into a liquid. The liquid glass can then be poured into **moulds** for new bottles and jars. The glass sets again and the new bottles and jars make their way to shops where people buy them. As long as people keep recycling the glass, the cycle can continue.



The next glass bottle you use might have been made from many other recycled bottles.

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The Glass Packaging Recycling Process



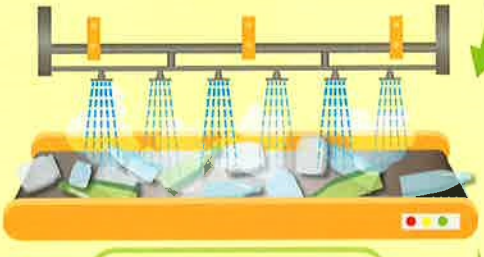
1. We put glass in recycling bin



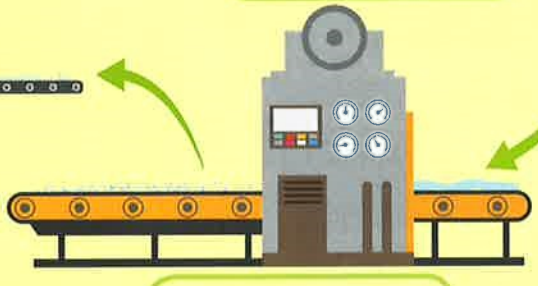
2. Glass is picked up and taken to recycling plant



3. Glass is sorted



4. Glass is washed



5. Glass is crushed



6. Glass is melted



7. Glass is made into new items



8. New glass items are back in the shops



9. We buy new glass items

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Recycling Plastic

We use plastic in so many ways every day. One of the most common uses of plastic is in packaging, such as plastic drink bottles. In fact, about 1 million plastic bottles are bought each minute around the world. Only about 7 per cent of these are recycled and made into new bottles. The rest go to landfills or end up in our oceans. Yet, a plastic bottle is one kind of plastic that can easily be recycled.

Recycling plastic is better for the planet than making new plastic. Recycling plastic uses less energy. New materials are not needed. This saves the energy needed to get the new materials and transport them. Because the raw materials have already been processed once, it is easier the second time. The process causes fewer emissions.



One plastic bottle may stay in the environment for up to 1000 years before it breaks down.

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