



# What Waste?

## AN ASL TWINS PROJECT PLAN



### General Overview

This TWINS project aims to give the students in both schools the chance to think about the amount of waste they and their families produce, how it is disposed of and how it can be recycled.

### Method

- The TWINS Coordinators of both schools agree to share this project and set a deadline for its completion.
- This project can be done as a class activity with sections done in groups or by individual students.
- The teacher asks the children to write a journal at home for a week to record the amount of and type of waste their families produce. During this time the students should also talk to their parents to get their views on the topic. Do they think this subject is important?
- The teacher and students talk about their findings in class and discuss the types of waste being generated. How is waste disposed of, where does it go and how much is recycled and how?
- The children can be divided into groups and each can be given a different type of waste to research and write about. Glass, Cans, Food, Plastic, Fabric, Paper, Wood, Garden Waste, Effluent, Water, Batteries, Liquids etc.....
- The students should consider how each is produced, how it can be disposed of, whether it is biodegradable or whether it can be recycled, what are its effects on the environment?
- The students' work can be collated, along with extracts from the journals, to make an informative and interesting project book which includes photos, drawings, charts and written work.
- Colourful posters can also be produced to promote recycling or students can have fun making artwork using waste materials! If these are too large or heavy to post photos can be taken and sent as part of the project.
- The students' work should be exchanged with their TWINS school within the timeframe agreed.
- A follow up lesson should be arranged after receiving the booklet from the TWINS school. Discuss as a class how waste is viewed by the students overseas and the similarities and differences in methods and opportunities for recycling. What are the reasons for these?



## Things the students could consider!



- Why is it important to recycle?
- World resources and the effect of waste on the environment, landfill etc.....
- How can the students and their families make a difference to the quantity of waste they produce? Do they recycle and can they recycle more?
- How often do their parents buy products that are made from recycled materials?
- Packaging and carrier bags!
- What symbols, markings and information are on products to help us to recycle?
- Do their parents seek out products that have been produced from sustainable sources?
- General attitude to litter in the street and pet waste!
- Sewage and water treatment.
- Waste generated by the family car; fumes, oil, the disposal of scrap metal and other parts!
- The effects of burning rubbish!
- Waste generated by industry and retailers such as fast food outlets.
- Waste generated by technology; computers, mobile phones – what happens to them?
- Do they think it is easier to live an environmentally conscious lifestyle in their country or in their TWIN School's country?

## What will the students learn?

- All about the effects of waste, importance of recycling and its effects on the environment.
- Social skills, critical thinking and decision-making as they work in groups and discuss the topic.
- How to research and gather information.
- How to creatively present information.

## Summary

This TWINS project is a great way for students to explore the environmental issues of waste and recycling. The project has been designed for secondary students but can easily be simplified for primary aged children.

This project can be linked to the global dimension theme of '*Sustainability*'.

