grade 4-6

Waste Reduction

This is a resource developed by Bellarine Catchment Network with updated Wadawurrung content thanks to the Corangamite CMA and Wadauwurrung.

Learn about the impact of waste and how we can reduce out impact through individual actions.

For more information, email info@bcn.org.au

Artwork by BJ O'Toole, proud Wadawurrung man

BELLARINE CATCHMENT NETWORK
Landcare and Coastcare

CORANGAMITE CMA

Wadawurrung
Traditional Owners
Aboriginal Corporation

Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to Acknowledge Wadawurrung, the Traditional Owners of the land on which we work and live, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future.



Murnong

Wadawurrung
Traditional Owners
Aboriginal Corporation

Waste Reduction

grade 4-6

Each week, the average Australian creates 10kg of waste. That is about the same as 2 cats! If you have a big family, you can quickly create a lot of waste in one week. Everything we buy; from our food, toys, phones and clothes use resources that come from the earth. We can all do our part in reducing waste and ensuring we leave the earth in good shape for our grandchildren.

One thing that humans are great at is problem solving. Recycling is one way that we reduce our waste and make the most of existing resources like aluminium and paper. The more that we recycle, the less we have to take from the earth. However, recycling needs to be done properly for it to have the biggest impact.

Choosing reusable products over single use items is an even better way to reduce your waste. Single use items are used for around 1 minute before they go into the trash, but if you use reusable items, you can use it over and over for years.

Some key actions to manage waste:

1. Use reusable items when possible
2. Only buy what you need
3. Leave your lunch 'nude' at school
4. Buy fresh and un-packaged food
5. Store your food properly
6. Use older items first
7. Recycle right in your local council
8. Compost food scraps & paper
9. Rethink your need to buy new
10. Use less to create less!

Wadawurrung people used resources found on the Country or Djá for hunting, clothing, food, medicine and culture, and were able to live a sustainable lifestyle without greed, taking only what they needed like the Ochre found in cliffs below.



Credit: Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation

Waste detectives

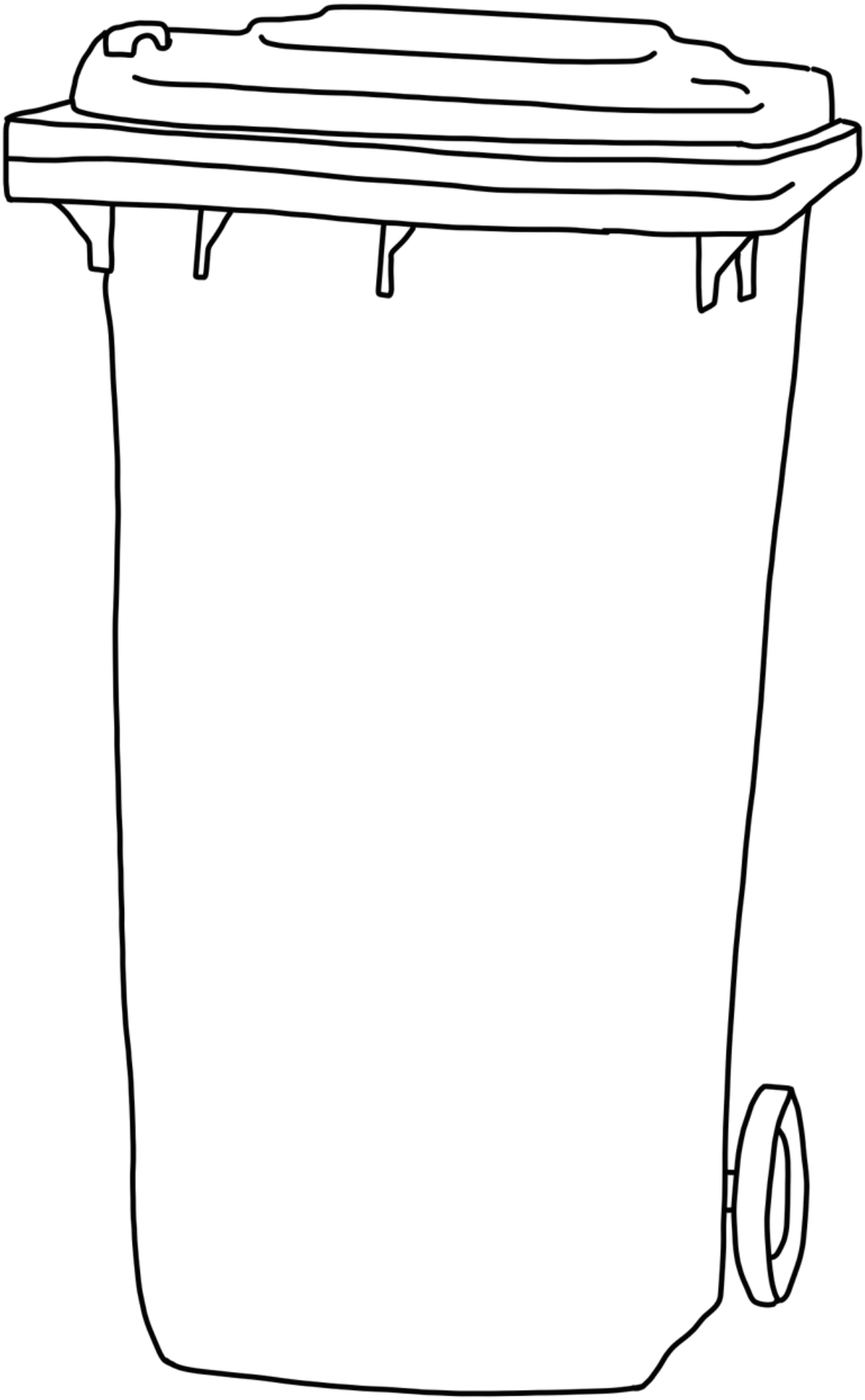
Use this link to help you

Use the following pages to match the waste item to the correct bin. Cut out each circle and paste it into the bins on the following pages. You can colour in your bin to match your one at home and then cut them out and stick them on your fridge or near your bins as a reminder.

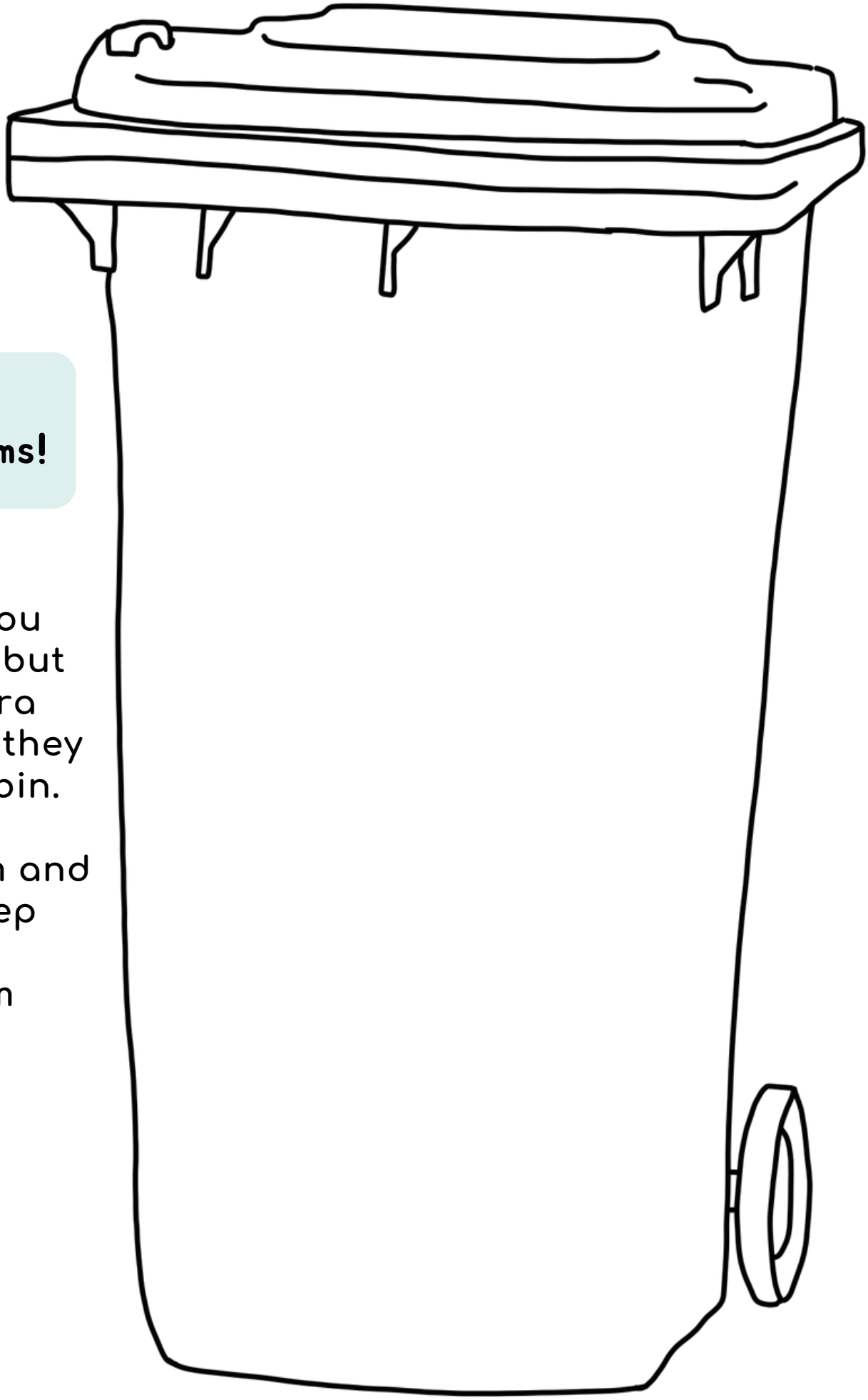
Note: this is based on the City of Greater Geelong bin system. Your council may have different rules so check their website.



rubbish bin



recycling bin

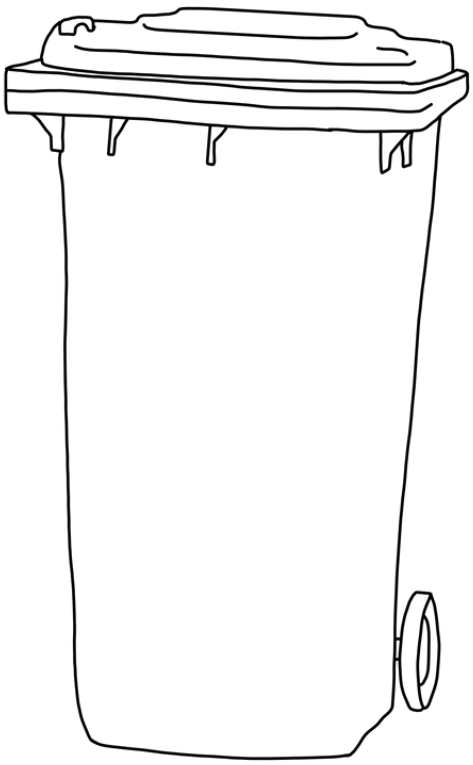


spot the tricky items!

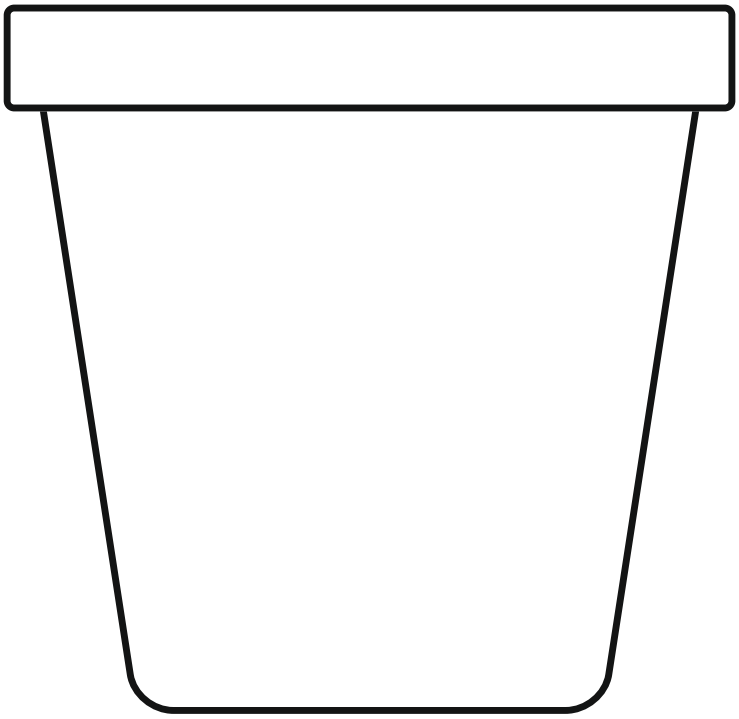
There are 3 items that you can recycle but need an extra step before they go into the bin.

List the item and the extra step needed to recycle them properly.

organic garden bin



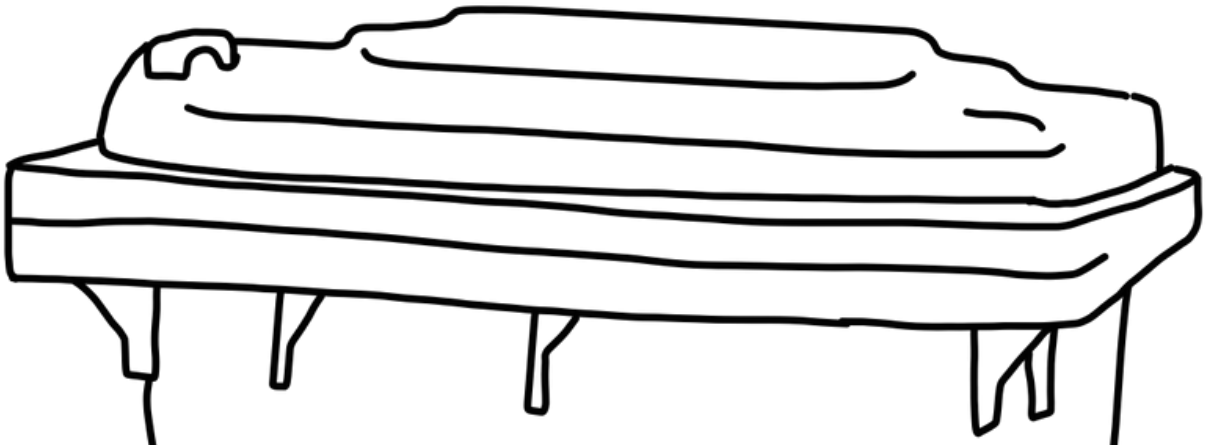
compost bin or worm farm



special recycling or centres

op shop if in good condition

rubbish bin



if pots and pans are in good condition, donate them!





long life packaging is hard to recycle

coffee cups are not recyclable! Some can be composted but must say 'home compostable'



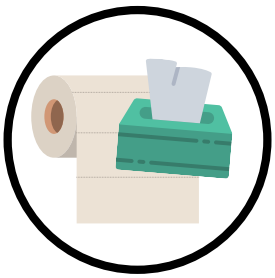


some light bulbs can be recycled so check!





paper towel, tissues and wet wipes cannot be recycled or flushed down the loo

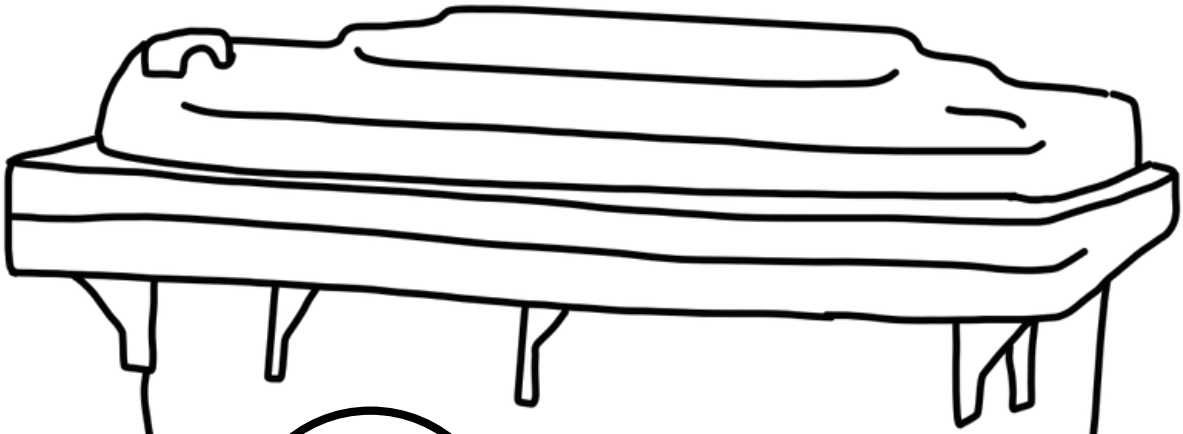


never put bagged rubbish into recycling

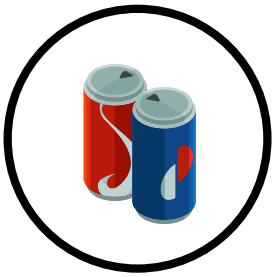
recycling bin

tricky items:

1. pizza box
2. cans
3. bottles

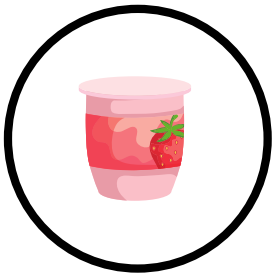


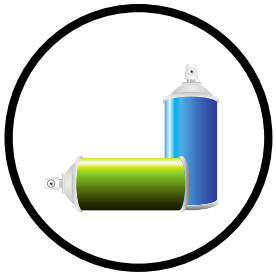




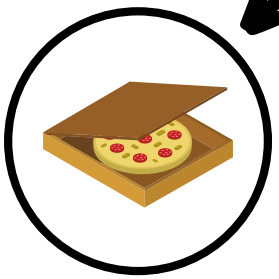
cans must be clean, empty and dry - this is why they are tricky







only the top of the pizza box can be recycled as the bottom is too greasy



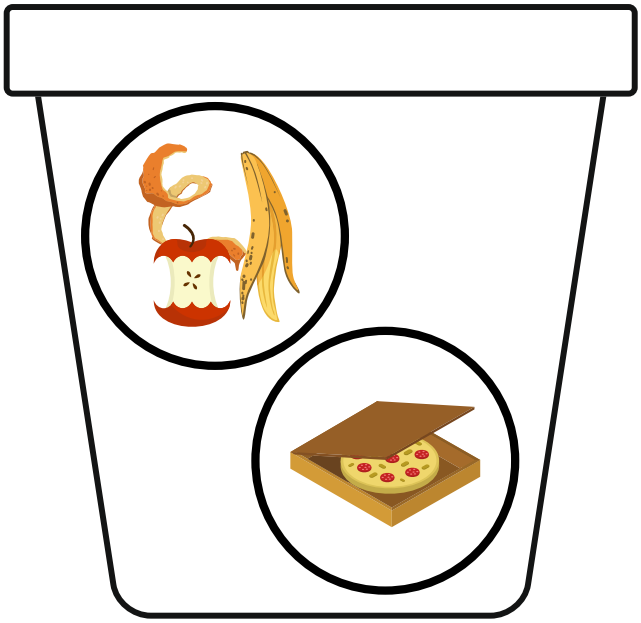
glass bottles and jars must also be clean, empty and dry!



organic garden bin

compost or worm farm

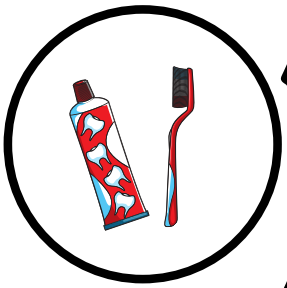




special recycling or other

op shop if in good condition

some dentists recycle dental items

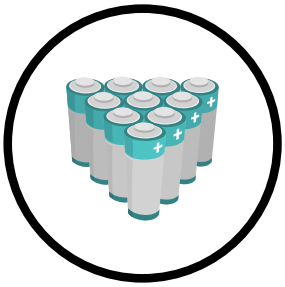


recycle soft plastics to coles or woolies

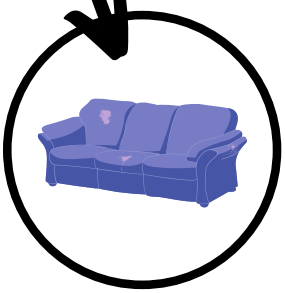


officeworks recycle office items; pens, batteries, cartridges





must go to the tip or picked up as hard waste



all ewaste must be recycled with your local council





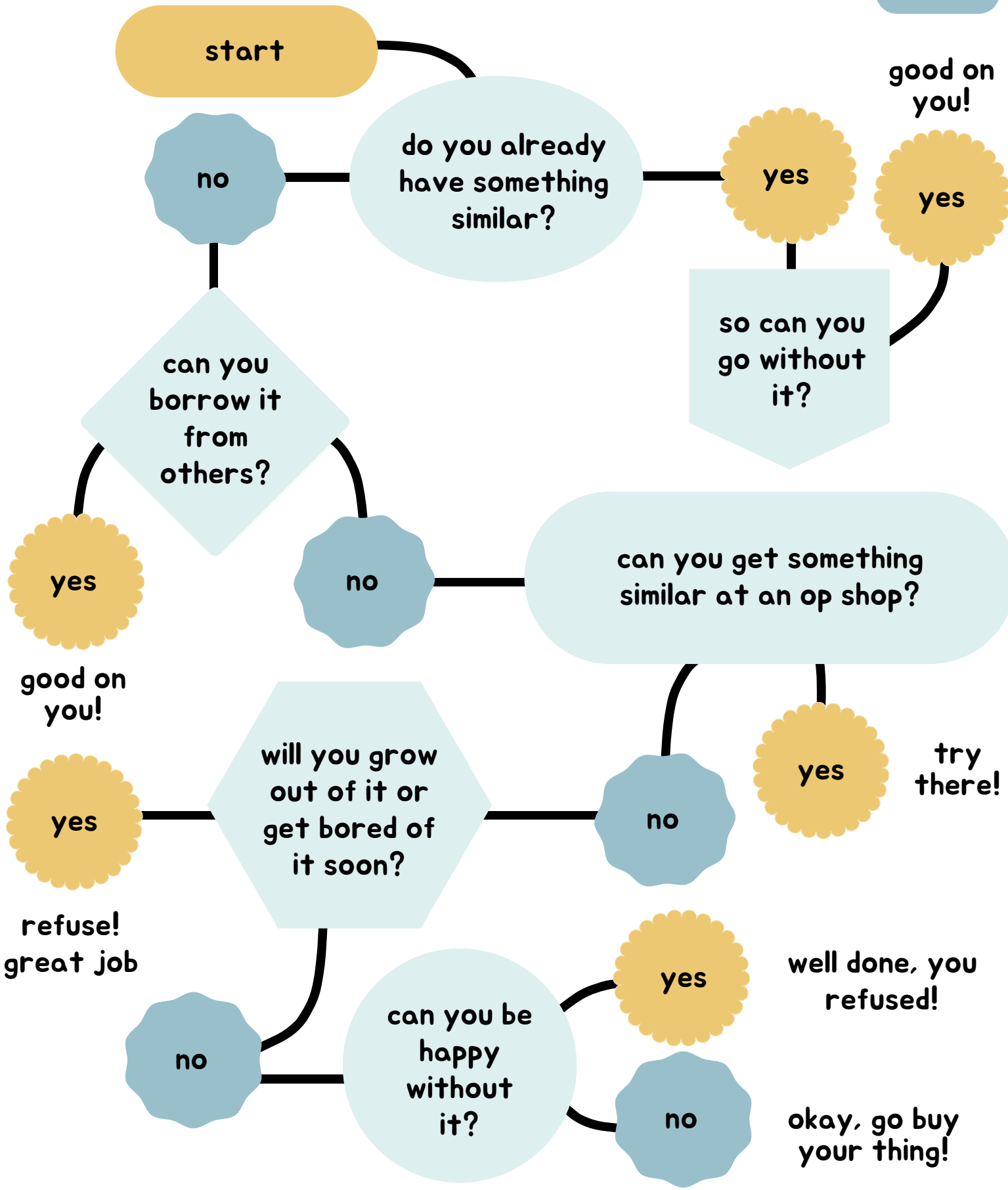




The purchasing pathway

Think about something you really want. It might be a toy, a new t-shirt or anything else. Keep it in your mind and move through the flow chart to help you make a decision about buying things!

stick this on your wall!

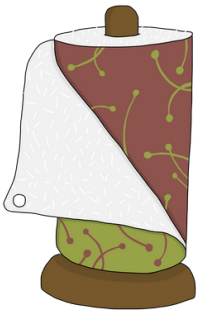


Choose to reuse

There are lots of reusable products that can replace things that become waste after 1 minute of use. Draw arrows between each reusable item and the waste that is replaced from switching to reusable.



plastic cutlery or straws



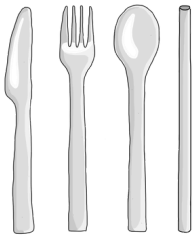
glad wrap



plastic bags



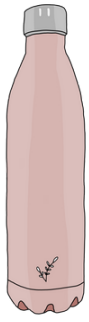
synthetic wipes, paper towel



plastic or polystyrene coffee cup



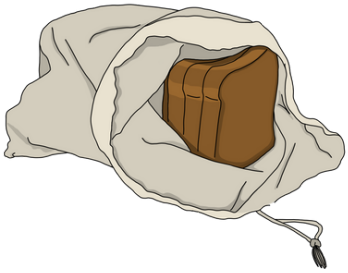
plastic floss and tooth brushes



plastic packaged bread or produce bag



plastic pens, highlighters



single use water bottle



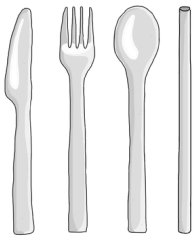
plastic cleaning brushes

Choose to reuse Answers

There are lots of reusable products that can replace things that become waste after 1 minute of use. Draw arrows between each reusable item and the waste that is replaced from switching to reusable.



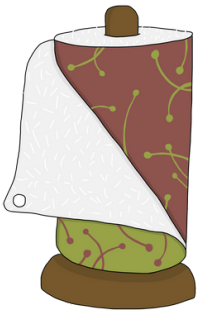




plastic cutlery or straws

plastic bags

plastic or polystyrene coffee cup



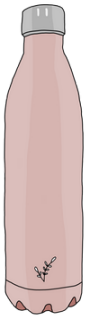


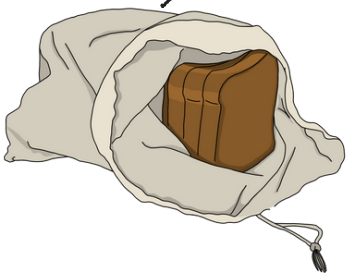


glad wrap

synthetic wipes, paper towel

plastic floss and tooth brushes





plastic packaged bread or produce bag

single use water bottle





plastic pens, highlighters

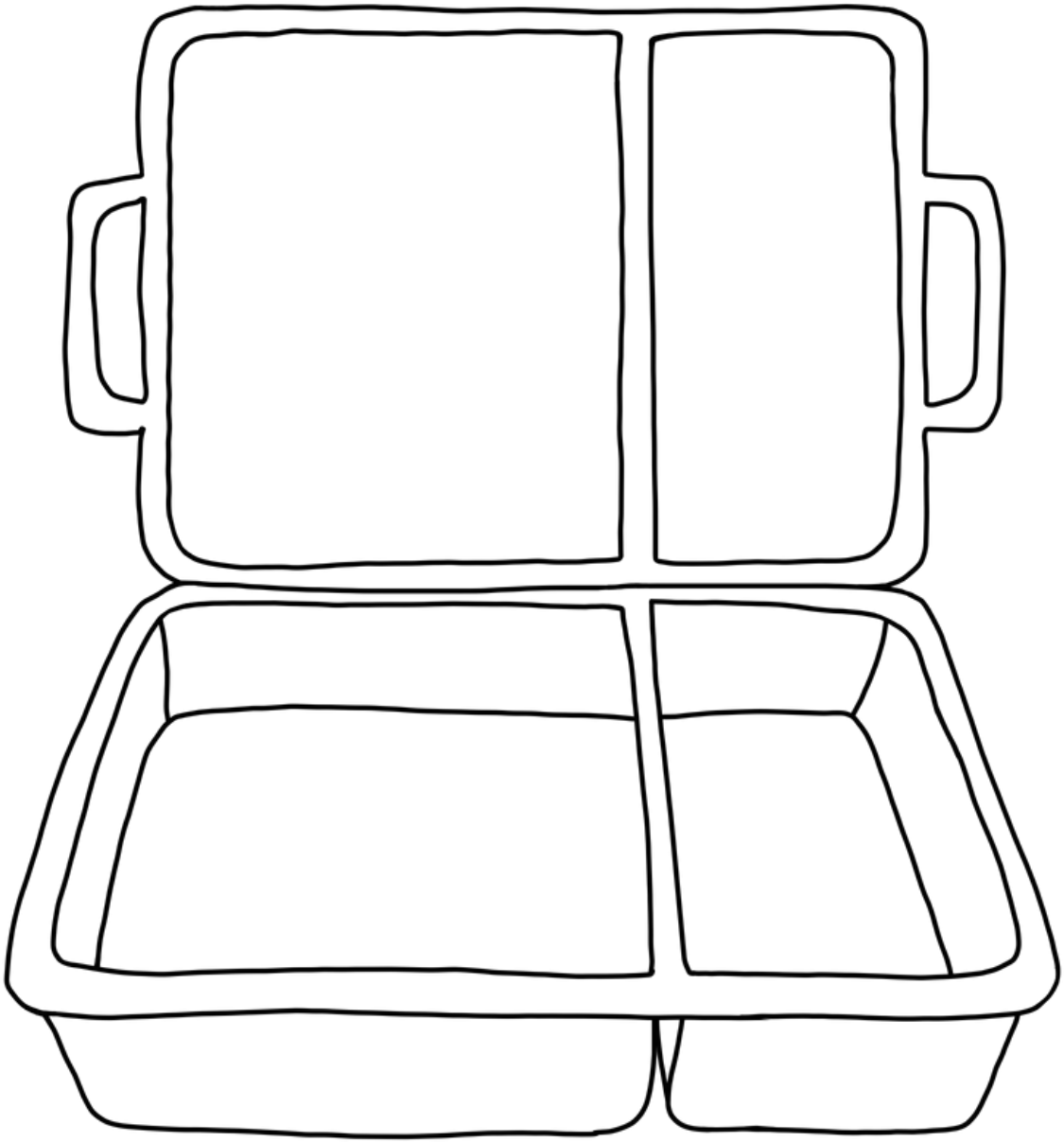
plastic cleaning brushes

Nude your food!

click here for tips

Your challenge is to make your entire lunch nude and avoid all plastic packaging like glad wrap or small packets. Get creative as you look through your fridge and pantry to find things to include. Plan your lunch first and then and then draw a picture of it in the lunchbox below.

plan your lunch here



My waste mate

click here for ideas

Go for a walk around your house or backyard and look for waste. Collect items that can be used for art (cardboard, paper, fabric, soft and hard plastic, aluminium foil, etc). Get creative and imagine your "waste mate" and plan if will have arms, legs, tails, tentacles, googly eyes, hair, feathers or other features. Create your mate out of your collected waste and then either paste it in the space below or take a photo of your waste mate and paste the image into the space below.

Compost colour in

click here for tips

Composting or using a worm farm is a great way to stop food waste going to landfill where it produces gases that cause climate change. Colour in the items below that are good to compost and cross out the items that are bad for your compost. **Tip: have a look through your own compost bin to identify these things.**



Evaluation

Test your waste knowledge here to see if you are a recycling expert!

click here to test yourself

What was your favourite activity?

What are some ways you can reduce your waste?

Why do we need to reduce our waste?

Name _____ Teacher _____

Grade _____ Date _____