

Activity: The waste funnel

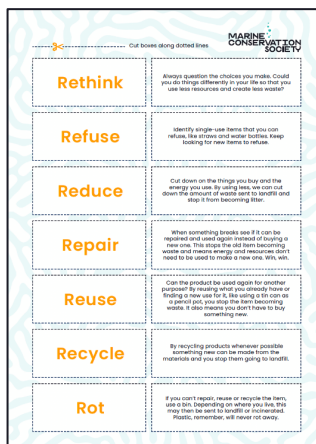
The only way to solve our litter problem is to create less litter. Use this activity to help pupils understand the 7Rs – the seven ways to tackle waste and avoid sending waste to landfill.

Part 1: Introduce the waste funnel



1. Display the [waste funnel image](#)
2. Start by discussing the meaning of the terms. Has anyone heard of any of the words on the funnel? Can they attempt to define the terms they know? Move on to discuss and define the unfamiliar terms.
3. Talk about the shape of the funnel. Explain it is designed to show importance and impact, with the actions that make the most difference placed at the top. If we Rethink, Refuse and Reduce, it will reduce the volume of litter in the environment.

Part 2: Check understanding



Use the [matching cards](#) to check pupils' understanding of the terms. They could work individually, in pairs or small groups.

Only 9% of all plastic ever made has been recycled – recycling alone isn't the solution. If products are designed to be repairable, redesigned into new items or used time and again, the amount sent to landfill or incinerated can be reduced.

Waste Funnel

Reducing our waste means less landfill/ incineration and less litter



MARINE
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY



Cut boxes along dotted lines

Rethink

Always question the choices you make. Could you do things differently in your life so that you use less resources and create less waste?

Refuse

Identify single-use items that you can refuse, like straws and water bottles. Keep looking for new items to refuse.

Reduce

Cut down on the things you buy and the energy you use. By using less, we can cut down the amount of waste sent to landfill and stop it from becoming litter.

Repair

When something breaks see if it can be repaired and used again instead of buying a new one. This stops the old item becoming waste and means energy and resources don't need to be used to make a new one. Win, win.

Reuse

Can the product be used again for another purpose? By reusing what you already have or finding a new use for it, like using a tin can as a pencil pot, you stop the item becoming waste. It also means you don't have to buy something new.

Recycle

By recycling products whenever possible something new can be made from the materials and you stop them going to landfill.

Rot

If you can't repair, reuse or recycle the item, use a bin. Depending on where you live, this may then be sent to landfill or incinerated. Plastic, remember, will never rot away.