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Plastic bag peril

Time:

40 minutes

Who it's for:

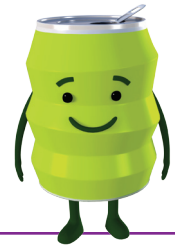
5 to 10 year olds

You'll need:

'Turtle pictures' sheet

What to do:

1. We used over 7 billion plastic bags in England in 2012 and the average bag is only used for 15 minutes. Some scientists fear that plastic bags may never decompose, just breaking down in to ever smaller pieces of plastic.
2. Plastic bags cause lots of problems for many animals. Hand round the 'Turtle pictures' sheet which shows the leatherback turtle – the largest of all species of turtles. Ask if anyone can identify the animal. Ask why plastic bags might be a particularly bad problem for these animals. Explain that as their diet mainly consists of jellyfish, many turtles mistake plastic bags for food and eat them, leading to suffocation.
3. One way to help protect these amazing turtles is to reduce the number of plastic bags we use. Ask members to either...
 - Create a turtle based poster.
 - Design a group bag-for-life design which encourages people to reuse plastic bags. They could stick their designs and their posters up at home to help remind everyone to reuse their bags.
 - Make a plastic bag holder for home to reuse any plastic bags.



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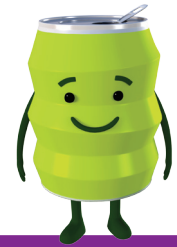
Turtle picture card



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Fashion show

Time:

1 hour

Who it's for:

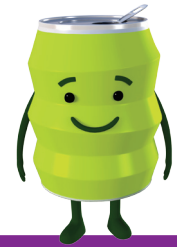
10+

You'll need:

- Recyclable materials
- Pens, pencils
- Craft materials
- Paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Needle and thread or sewing machines with some willing volunteers to use them

What to do:

1. At the end of one session explain that the following week members will be challenged to create or decorate a piece of clothing (eg hat, trainers, T-shirt) out of some recycled materials of their choice. Remind them to bring the material which they want to use with them next week.
2. Members should spend some time considering which piece of clothing they want to make or decorate, and draw a few designs before deciding on their favourite.
3. Then using craft materials, as well as their recycling they should set about making or decorating their piece of clothing.
4. Once all the pieces are complete, run a fashion show. You could invite parents in to watch.

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Battery recycling point

Time:

n/a

Who it's for:

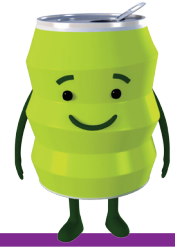
All ages

You'll need:

Cardboard box

What to do:

1. Portable batteries are used around the house for lots of different appliances, but they can also cause a lot of environmental damage if they aren't disposed of properly.
2. In 2010 we only recycled 3% of the 45,000 tonnes of batteries which are sold in the UK each year and each battery has the potential to contaminate up to 750,000 litres of groundwater!
3. Create a battery recycling point at your meeting space. Members could create and decorate a box to hold the batteries.
4. Encourage members to bring in empty batteries from around the house for recycling. They could ask their family and friends whether they have any batteries which need recycling which they could bring in.
5. Members could also create leaflets or posters explaining the importance of recycling batteries rather than throwing them away, or better still encouraging people to use rechargeable batteries where possible.
6. After six months you could create a visual display using all the batteries you have collected to show your group's work.
7. You should be able to add the batteries you collect to battery recycling facilities which can be found at most supermarkets and some local authority household recycling centres – you can check online.

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Community litter pick

Time:

A few hours

Who it's for:

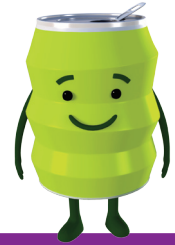
All ages

You'll need:

- Volunteers
- Rubber gloves
- Litter pickers

What to do:

1. Organise a litter pick in the local area to help an unloved area such as a park or a footpath get back to looking its best.
2. Get your group to take charge and organise the litter pick, extending the invitation out to the local community to try and maximise the impact.
3. Issue all participants with rubber gloves and litter pickers and make sure to warn everyone not to pick up anything sharp or dangerous.
4. Make sure that all waste is sorted and recycled wherever possible.

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Swap-meet

Time:

1 hour

Who it's for:

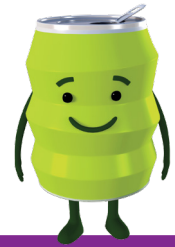
All ages

You'll need:

- Unwanted items
- Numbered pieces of paper

What to do:

1. We all have so much stuff that much of which we own may never get used.
2. Run a swap-meet where each member is asked to bring in a few unwanted items which they think others might get more enjoyment from. They should check with parents at home before they bring things in.
3. You could draw numbers from a hat to determine who gets the first choice of the items which are on offer.

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What can I do with my old...?

Time:

15-20 minutes

Who it's for:

All ages

You'll need:

Nothing

What to do:

There are so many things that we throw away that could be used for another purpose. Try this quick-thinking game to see how many ideas your group can come up with!

1. Sit in a circle. You'll need to practise this game a few times to get into the swing of it.
2. Begin by setting a rhythm. Slap your knees twice and clap your hands twice, so slap, slap, clap, clap, slap, slap, clap clap and so on in an even rhythm. The leader or whoever is starting the game should chant to the rhythm, 'What could be done with my old [say name of item, like 'bottle', 'newspaper', 'jeans' etc]?' Then as the group keeps up the rhythm, the person to the leader's left should give their idea as quickly as they can of what the item could be used for.
3. You could set a limit of how many 'slap, slap, clap, clap' rounds each person has to give an answer in, and if they can't get an answer in time, or they repeat a previous answer, the last person that spoke wins! The winner then begins the next round with a different item.

Take it further:

Write down all the answers and see if you can actually make one of them!

Try it this way:

To make this game easier, you could have group discussion first, coming up with ten things you could do with a few different items – then the game is more of a memory game.