# Geography Alive: Stage 2 (Topic 2: The Earth's Environment)

### Lesson 5: Recycling

#### Content focus:

In this lesson, students have the opportunity to focus on waste and waste management (recycling) in their school and society more generally.

#### **Resources:**

- Episodes of the ABC TV program War on Waste focusing on recycling
- PowerPoint 1: Recycling
- Student Worksheet 1
- · Picture book: Rubbish and Recycling by Stephanie Turnbull and Christyan Fox (illustrator). Gold Books.
- Craft-based resources paints, scissors, glue, pencils etc



## **Key inquiry questions:**

- What is waste and why is it important that we minimise it?
- What are the different types of recyclables and how can they be classified?
- How does your school handle waste? How do they encourage recycling?
- What are recycled materials

## **Outcomes:**

A student:

- identifies and describes the range of recyclables generated in our day-today way of life
- classifies recyclables
- identifies a range of products made from recycles glass and paper
- reflects on ways they can reduce the amount of waste going to landfill
- produces a craft-based item using recyclables.

### Lesson sequence:

- Step 1: Introduce students to the topic of waste recycling) by linking it to the lessons on littering and the waste and showing them an episode (or clip) from the ABC TV program War on Waste. Draw the students' attention to any recycling initiatives in the school and ask them about the recycling that occurs in their homes. Point out that recycling can greatly reduce the amount of waste generated by the packaging industry. For example, seven out of every ten plastic bottles manufactured in Australia are made from recycled plastic.
- **Step 2:** Read students the picture book: Rubbish & Recycling by Stephanie Turnbull. describes and illustrates what happens to the rubbish that we throw away. The book is informative and uses a mixture of text, photographs and illustrations; some of which provide a humorous but nonetheless factual element to the text. The book provides a lot of information that could be used in class discussions.
- Step 3: Using PowerPoint 1 and Student Worksheet 1 ask students to identify the categories of recyclables. Ask them to identify the types of
  waste in each category.
- **Step 4:** Ask students to take out their lunch boxes. Ask them to identify the recyclable items (mostly packaging) present. What category of recyclables is present in their lunch box? Mention that anything food they don't eat will become organic waste. Ask students to brainstorm ways in which they could reduce the amount of packaging used. Ask them if they separate their waste when they finish their lunch. Describe the recycling facilities provided in the school. Does the school have a composting facility? What is the compost used for?
- Step 5: Using glass as an example, ask students to think about products that can be made from glass other than new bottles. You might like to make this an internet-based research task. Examples of products include fibreglass insulation, ceramic products such as toilets and basins, astroturf, manufactured 'stone' kitchen benches, water filtration material, abrasives such as sandpaper. Students might like the repeat the task focusing on the use to which wastepaper is put.
- **Step 6:** Using the internet, ask students to identify a craft-based activity using recyclables. As a class vote on the best activity. Using the necessary materials students undertake the craft-based activity.