



GET INVOLVED



15 MINUTES



READY TO GO

# RECYCLING TRUE OR FALSE



## ▶▶ GETTING INTO THE ACTIVITY

Dive into the topic of recycling, by sorting the recycling facts from the recycling fiction. Link with Recycling Week (21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> Sept).

Did you know that the UK produces over 220 million tonnes of waste each year, yet only 45% of that waste gets recycled? Explore some more mind-blowing facts about recycling with a game of recycling true or false.

Afterwards have a discussion about recycling. Did any of the facts surprise the group? What could you do, both at BB and at home, to recycle more and reduce waste? Think about some recycling pledges that each child could make, to play their role in getting better at recycling.

**Face-to-Face:** Place a 'true' sign at one end of the room and a 'false' sign at the other end of the room. Read out each statement from the question sheet and children should stand at either the true or false ends of the room. Award points for a correct guess.

**Virtual Sessions:** Read out each statement and ask children to hold up a thumbs up or thumbs down to signal if they think it is true or false. Award points for a correct guess.

## ☑☑ WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Recycling True or False Question Sheet
- True or False Signs (Face-to-Face)

## ! KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE

When playing face-to-face, ensure there is sufficient space to maintain social distancing as required.

# RECYCLING TRUE OR FALSE

## True or False Statements

### General Facts

UK households recycle 75% of their waste.

FALSE - It's actually only 45%. The UK has a target of hitting 50% by 2020, but we are on track to miss this.

As much as 80% of the things we throw away could be recycled.

TRUE - That's a big gap from the 45% we currently recycle.

### Plastic Recycling

It takes 250 years for plastic to fully decompose.

FALSE - It's actually 500 years! The drinks bottle you use once and then throw away, could still be about in the year 2500.

The amount of plastic that ends up in our oceans each year could cover the size of France.

FALSE - It could actually cover the size of France 3 times over. Overall it's a huge 8 million tonnes.

Plastic that ends up in our oceans, kill roughly 1 million sea creatures a year

TRUE

In the UK we use 7.7 billion plastic bottles a year. On average that's 117 bottles per person, per year.

TRUE - That's a lot of bottles!

### Paper Recycling

Worldwide 1 billion trees are cut down every year for paper.

FALSE - It's actually 4 billion trees! The average UK family throws away 6 trees worth of paper every year.

The UK could fill 10,000 double-decker buses with the amount of wastepaper sent to landfills (not recycled) each year.

FALSE - it's actually 100,000 double-deckers.

If every person in the UK recycled just 10% more paper, we would save approximately 5 million trees a year.

TRUE - Something to think about next time you throw a piece of paper in the bin.

### Steel / Aluminium Cans Recycling

The average UK household uses over 600 tins/cans each year.

TRUE - That works out at over 16 billion cans a year across the UK.

The energy saved by recycling just 1 drinks can, is enough to run a TV for 3 hours.

TRUE - It takes 95% less energy to use recycled materials to make a can, than it does to make a new one from scratch.

If all the aluminium drinks cans recycled in the UK were laid end to end, they could go around the earth 3 times.

FALSE - Those cans could actually go around the earth an impressive 30 times!

### Food Recycling

The average person in the UK throws away 7 times their body weight in food each year.

TRUE - A family throws away nearly £700 worth of food each year. Most of which is still edible or could be recycled / composted. Think how much energy goes into producing, wrapping and transporting that food.

We throw away 1.4 million untouched bananas a year.

FALSE - It's actually 1.4 million bananas a day. That's over 510 million bananas in a year!

We throw away 20 million slices of bread every day.

TRUE - In the UK we are really bad at not using the food we buy. Each loaf of bread takes 100 buckets of water to make.

Sources: [www.recycle-more.co.uk](http://www.recycle-more.co.uk), [www.recyclingbins.co.uk](http://www.recyclingbins.co.uk)