



Teacher Resource

School Recycling Campaign

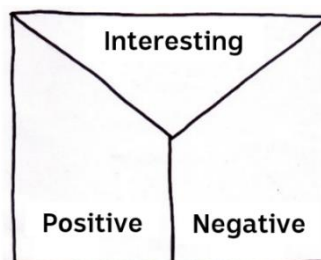
Focus Questions

1. Retell the BTN story using your own words.
2. What environmental initiatives do the students have at Kangaroo Inn Area School? Name one.
3. How did the kids work out how much they were throwing out each day?
4. How many kilos of paper and cardboard does the school send to landfill every week?
5. Who did the kids write a letter to about the issue?
 - a. Council
 - b. Principal
 - c. Prime Minister
6. How long did it take for the school to get a recycling bin?
7. What other recycling initiative has the school started?
8. How do they reward the kids who do good recycling?
9. What did you like about this story?
10. Illustrate an aspect of the BTN story.

Activity: Note taking

Students will practise their note-taking skills while watching the BTN School Recycling Campaign story. After watching the story, ask students to reflect on and organise the information into three categories. What information in the story was...?

- Positive
- Negative or
- Interesting



Activity: Class Discussion

Have a class discussion about what your school already does to recycle. Use one or more of the following questions to guide your discussion:

- What impact does rubbish have on the environment? (*landfill, increased greenhouse emissions, waterways become polluted, animals become tangled in or mistakenly eat rubbish found in the ocean*)
- Do you recycle at your school? What do you know about it?
- Do you know where the recycled materials end up and what they are used for?
- What questions do you have about recycling?

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KEY LEARNING

Students will reflect on ways that recycling and waste is managed at their school and look at ways to improve their practices.

CURRICULUM

Geography – Year 4

The use and management of natural resources and waste, and the different views on how to do this sustainably.

HASS – Year 4

Reflect on learning to propose actions in response to an issue or challenge and consider possible effects of proposed actions.

Science – Year 4

Science knowledge helps people to understand the effect of their actions.

Science – Years 5 & 6

Scientific knowledge is used to solve problems and inform personal and community decisions.

Activity: Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN School Recycling Campaign story. Below are some words to get them started.

WASTE	LANDFILL	RECYCLE
CONTAMINANT	ORGANIC MATERIAL	E-WASTE

Activity: Recycling Research

After watching and discussing the BTN School Recycling Campaign story, what questions do students have? The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on this topic and consider what they would like to know and learn.

<i>What do I <u>know</u>?</i>	<i>What do I <u>want</u> to know?</i>	<i>What have I <u>learnt</u>?</i>	<i><u>How</u> will I find out?</i>

Students will develop their own question/s to research or select one or more of the questions below.

- What can happen if non-recyclable materials are placed in the recycling bin? What problems can it cause?
- What is the recycling life-cycle?
- What things are made from recycled materials? Find images and write a caption for each.
- What happens when organic material ends up in landfill?
- Should there be incentives for people who reduce, reuse and recycle? What do you think the incentives should be?

Activity: Waste Hierarchy

The waste hierarchy is a guide to help minimise waste. Discuss with students the different elements of the waste hierarchy and what they mean.

Brainstorm a list of actions or practices that can be done for each element to reduce the amount of rubbish going to landfill.

Rethink – think about what you are buying and consuming

Refuse – say no to unnecessary things (packaging etc.)

Reduce – the amount of material that will go to landfill

Reuse – many items can be reused or upcycled

Recycle – choose items that can be recycled

Compost – organic waste can be put into green waste bins or home compost bins

Landfill – send as little waste as possible to landfill



More information about the waste hierarchy can be found at the [Wipe Out Waste website](#)

Source: [Wipe Out Waste](#)

Activity: Recycling at school

Hold a class brainstorming session, asking students to think about all the different types of waste created at your school, for example:

- Paper
- Plastic – lunch wrappers, drink containers
- Food scraps
- Garden waste
- Electronic items – computers, tablets, printers
- Batteries
- Printer cartridges



Discuss with students what their school already does to reduce waste. For example, their school might have recycling programs, rubbish audits or clean up days. Does their school have an Environmental Management Plan? In small groups, ask students to brainstorm how their school could improve what it already does to reduce waste.

- Make a list of new ways that your school could reduce the amount of waste it creates and new ways that you can deal with the waste it creates.
- Share and compare your ideas with the class.
- Choose 1 of your ideas to present to your SRC or the school leadership team.

Here are some suggestions:

- Hold a zero-waste day
- Hold your own school's clean-up day
- Start a school compost or worm farm
- Audit rubbish created in one day
- Nude food days
- Contact your local council or other schools in your area to find out what they are doing to reduce waste.

Students will reflect on the activity and respond to the following:

- How can you reduce the amount of waste produced at your school?
- Should there be incentives for people who reduce, reuse and recycle?
- What did this challenge help you understand?
- Do you think you will change your recycling habits? If so, how?
- Should there be incentives for people who reduce, reuse and recycle?

Further Investigations

- How can consumers be persuaded to make better buying and recycling decisions? Come up with a list of incentives that you think would make a difference.
- Investigate other initiatives that help reduce the amount of rubbish going to landfill. For example, banning plastic bags in supermarkets. What states/territories in Australia have already banned plastic bags in supermarkets? How does this initiative help the environment?

Activity: Reduce your waste

Do your part to make a change and challenge yourself by having a 'waste-free lunch' or 'nude food' for a day or a week.

- Think of ways that you can avoid or reduce the amount of packaging you use. For example, putting food in reusable containers instead of disposable bags, and avoiding pre-packaged food.
- What can you do to take action?
 - Reduce the amount of packaging
 - Buy food that has little or no packaging (wherever possible)
 - Buy food in bulk and put into reusable containers
 - Write to food companies asking them to reduce the amount of packaging or change to environmentally friendly packaging.

BTN Waste and Recycling stories

This collection of BTN stories focuses on recycling and waste management.



[Recycling Solution](#)



[War on Waste School](#)



[Worm Wee](#)



[Composting Awareness](#)



[Bin Audit](#)



[Landfill](#)

Activity – Choose a project

Individually or in small groups, students will choose one of the following projects to work on and then present their findings to the class.

Worm Farm

Wondering what to do with the organic waste produced at your school? Set up a worm farm! Check out the [BTN Worm Wee](#) story to find out how to set one up.

Upcycling

Have you ever turned your rubbish into treasure? Watch BTN's [Upcycling Kids](#) story then experiment with upcycling using recycled materials collected at home and at school.

Beeswax Wrappers

Make your own reusable beeswax food wrappers. Discuss the benefits of using beeswax wrappers instead of plastic wrap.

Get Composting!

Learn more about the benefits of composting. Watch the [BTN Composting Awareness](#) story. Start your own school compost. Here's [Kosta's guide to composting](#) to help.

Useful Websites

- [When it comes to helping the environment, living in a rural area can certainly be a disadvantage](#) – ABC News
- [Bin Audit](#) – BTN
- [Landfill](#) – BTN
- [Recycling Solution](#) - BTN
- [Recycling](#) – ABC Education
- [Curious Kids: What happens to your recycled rubbish?](#) – The Conversation
- [War on Waste Digibook](#) – ABC Education