

Key Vocabulary	
waste	Unwanted or unusable materials or objects that are thrown away.
biodegradable	An object that is biodegradable can be broken down by bacteria or other living organisms.
sustainable	Working and living in a way that ensures there will still be natural resources (e.g. food, water, minerals) left for future generations.
landfill	The disposal of waste by burying it.
reduce	Trying to cut down on the amount of waste produced, e.g. by only buying what is needed and reusing items.
reuse	Using waste items again (sometimes for a different purpose) or buying items that can be specifically used repeatedly, e.g. refillable water bottles and wax wraps.
recycle	Converting waste into reusable materials.
decompose	Rot, decay and break down into smaller parts.
biodiversity	The variety of living things (such as plants and animals) in an area and how those living things depend on each other to meet their needs.
pollution	The presence of harmful things in the environment.

Key Knowledge

The amount of **waste** produced around the world is increasing. **Waste** comes in many different forms and includes food, packaging, clothing, single-use items and electronics (e-waste).



Waste is sometimes buried below ground at **landfill** sites where it will eventually **decompose** or it can be burnt at an energy recovery facility.

Waste can contribute to many different environmental issues including **pollution**, use of **non-renewable** resources, habitat loss and **climate change** through the production of **greenhouse gases**.

Reduce



Reuse



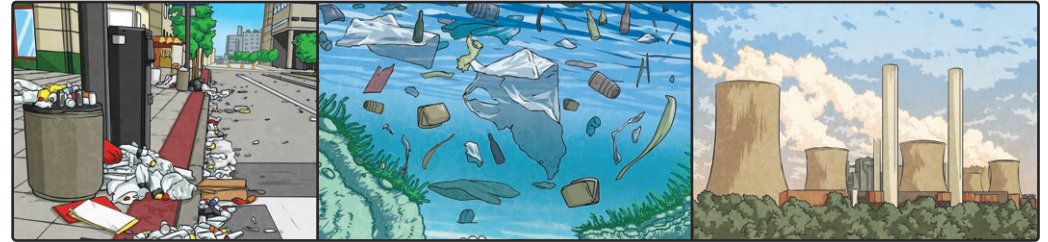
Recycle



Key Vocabulary	
renewable	A resource that is replaced naturally and so can be used repeatedly, e.g. oxygen, water, wood.
non-renewable	A resource that is used faster than it can be naturally replaced. These resources will one day run out, e.g. coal, oil.
greenhouse gas	Gases in Earth's atmosphere that contribute to the greenhouse effect by preventing the Sun's heat from escaping back into space, e.g. carbon dioxide.
greenhouse effect	An effect whereby the Sun's heat is trapped within Earth's atmosphere by the layer of greenhouse gases , which surround Earth. This leads to a continuous rise in temperature, causing changing ecosystems and more extreme weather events.
climate change	A long-term change in the Earth's climate that affects average temperatures and weather patterns.
carbon footprint	A measure of the amount of carbon dioxide that is released into Earth's atmosphere as a direct result from the activities of a person, company or organisation.

Key Knowledge

Litter and **pollution** can be dangerous for humans and **biodiversity**. Some animals may mistake litter for food and eat it. Litter can also trap and injure animals if they get tangled in it. Fumes from factories and vehicles can cause respiratory problems.



Everyday tasks like washing your hands and using the car require energy. **Non-renewable** energy sources, such as coal, oil and natural gas, produce large amounts of carbon dioxide when they are burned. Carbon dioxide is a **greenhouse gas** that builds up in the Earth's atmosphere over time and contributes to the **greenhouse effect** and **climate change**. Making new products and packaging also requires energy so often produces carbon dioxide. A **carbon footprint** is the measure of these carbon emissions that are released from daily activities. Following the 3Rs – **reducing waste**, **reusing** items and **recycling** – can help lower your **carbon footprint**.

