

WASTE AUDIT

Learn with Levenseat



INTRODUCTION

Bin Audit in Class

Education and awareness activities are at the heart of driving a change of attitude toward waste.

A bin audit is a great way to take stock of what waste you could be avoiding and improve your recycling habits at school.

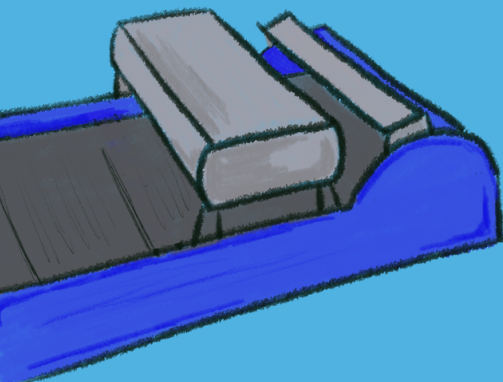
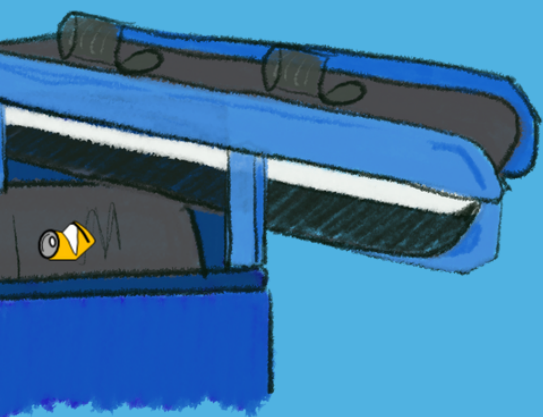
Conducting a bin audit to identify all the 'waste' in your class or school can help to:

- Pinpoint any changes needed

- Change attitudes to recycling

- Identify which items you could be better at recycling or composting.

This challenge allows you to see as a class if you are recycling effectively and that the students fully understand about their waste and how to recycle. For example, if your bin audit shows that within the class you are putting cardboard in the general waste bin, is this because you do not have a paper bin in class or school?



BIN AUDIT

If the bins in class are emptied daily, ask the cleaners or care takers to leave the class bins for a few days to get a decent amount of waste for this lesson. Alternatively pick a day not long after your bins have just been emptied (you do not want to rummage through week old waste). Make sure that you have given sufficient time for the waste to collect, but not too long that it starts to smell and 'go bad'.

Find a location that is sheltered, has good airflow and is easy to clean. Make sure that the waste will not blow away in the wind. Source some tarpaulin to protect the flooring and use PPE like gloves and aprons so to stay clean.

On the day

Gather your bin/s. Separate them by type, e.g. recycling, general waste, food waste - it depends on the separation system in your school.

Start with one type of rubbish and empty it all onto the tarpaulin.

Separate the rubbish into piles. For example, you may separate the general waste bin, paper, food, plastic bottles, cans, cardboard, glass.

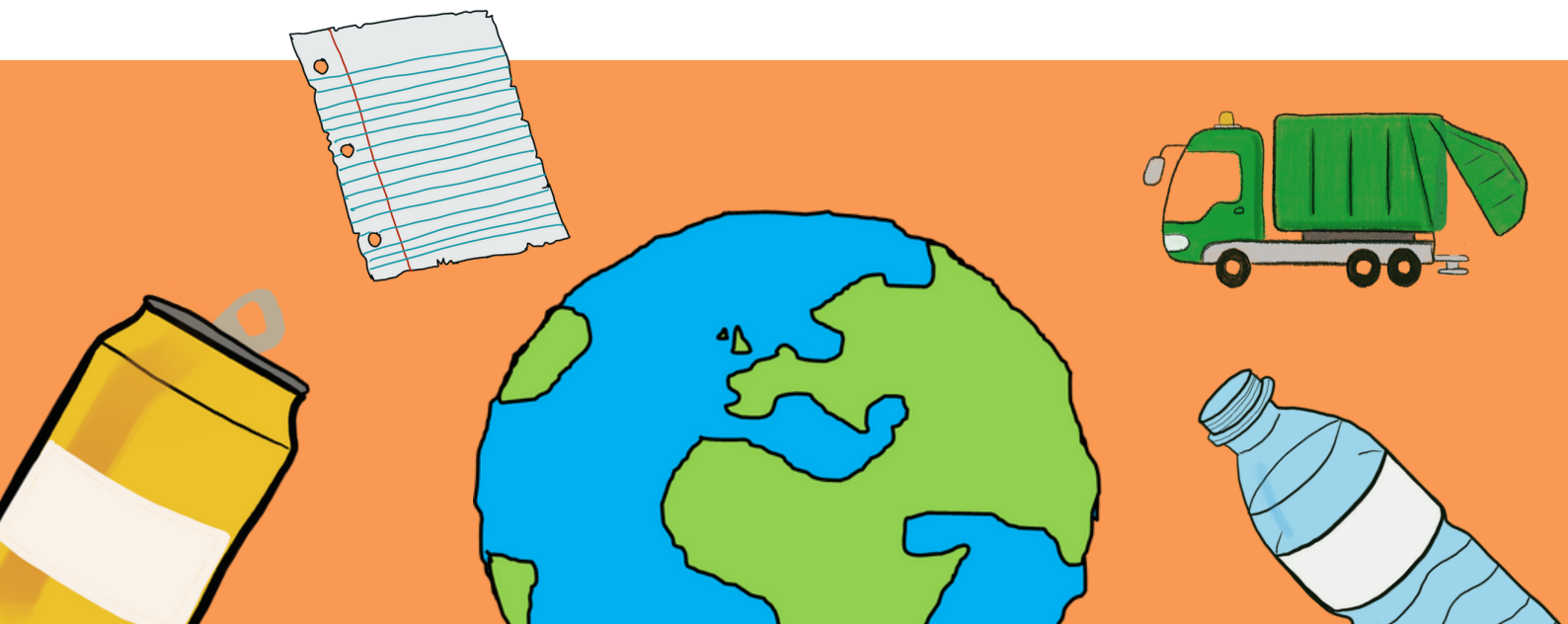
Depending on the types of waste, be mindful of sharp objects within the waste and items with the potential to cause harm e.g broken glass items.

Record results on the record sheet below or set the task for students to design their own record sheet.

Extension-Results can be recorded using different graphs to show case their knowledge. Students can make predictions before audit about which waste items they think they will find or will find most of and their reasoning why. E.g. We will find mostly crisp packets because most of the class have crisps at lunch time, or I think we will have a lot of food waste because we have fruit snack at break

Litter pick audit: you could apply the same principles to the rubbish picked from a small school litter pick campaign.

Students can record their thoughts and feelings about how much waste was collected and any suggestions on how to improve their class recycling. If possible, implicate the changes and then complete another audit a few weeks later and compare results.



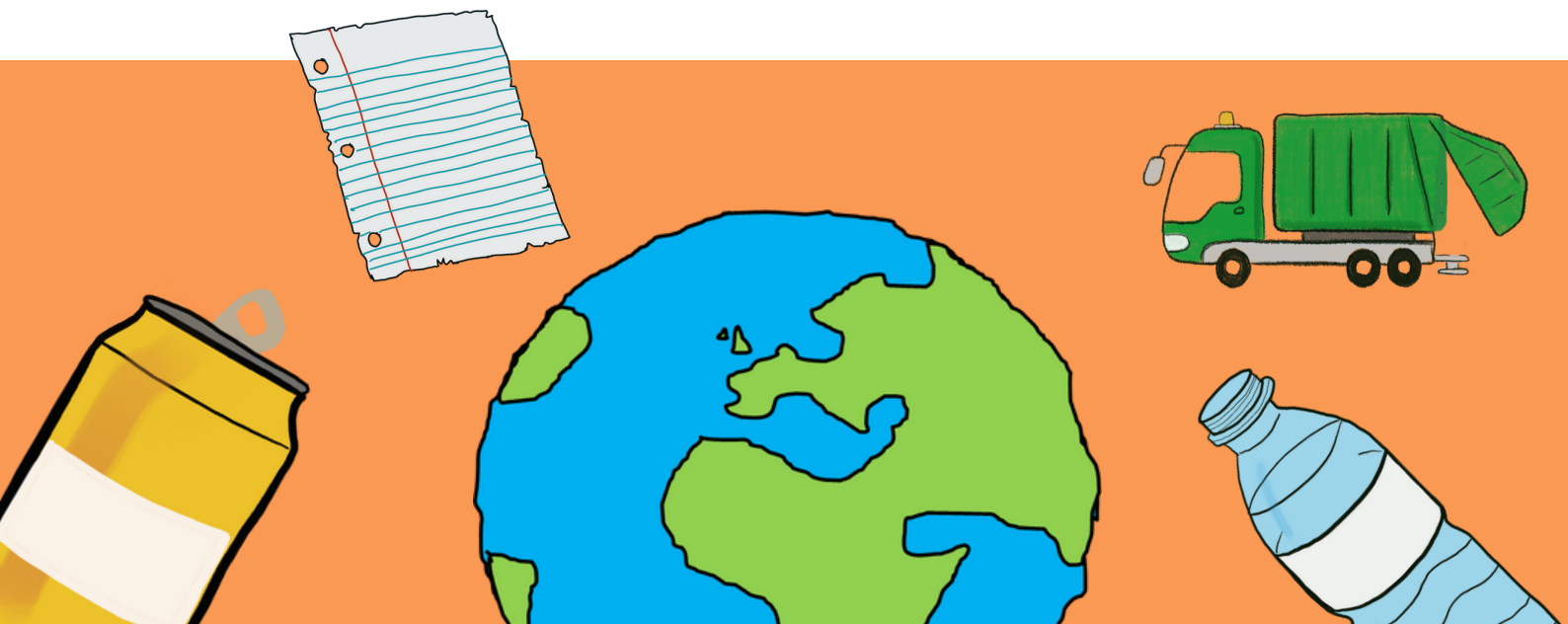
YOUR IMPACT

When all the data has been recorded discuss your results. Now is the right time to set goals like, you may identify as a class that you need to improve your recycling, that you don't have the proper bins to separate your waste or that students don't know what items go into which bins. Discuss how you can make changes individually and as a class to improve recycling. Reflect on these goals on a regular basis and consider conducting a bin audit in a few weeks/months to track and measure your progress.

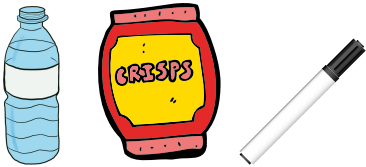




The implications of improving Recycling:

- Spark further interest in Climate Change, making students aware of issues that can directly impact them, e.g. reducing waste that needs collecting if we compost at school or home which can reduce transport pollution.
- Encourage the students on to talk about their waste and what they can change.
- Not only can this be applied at school but it can be used at home and within their communities improving wellbeing for all and ultimately the environment.

Return to your teachers notes to learn about the big challenge section and how the message can be taken beyond the classroom. Choose one or more of the challenges.



Zero Waste School Audit

Waste Item	Amount-Tally Marks	Total	Item found in the right bin Y/N
Plastic 			
Metal 			
Paper & Cardboard 			
Food waste 			
Batteries 			
other			

