

What is Waste?

Student Worksheet - Printable Version

Watch the [“What is Waste?” video](#) by our friends at Rethink Waste.

There are lots of names for waste like trash, garbage and junk. But not all of our waste is trash, garbage or junk! Some of our waste can be recycled or composted to be re-made over and over again. When we put the right items in the green compost or blue recycling container, that waste becomes like a treasure we can keep and use for ourselves instead of burying it in the landfill.

1. Write as many of the waste items that go in the blue recycling cart as you can.
2. Write as many of the waste items that go in the green composting cart as you can.
3. Why is it important for people to know that not all waste is garbage or trash?
4. When we find waste in the streets, in parks or in nature, we call it litter. Why does litter not belong in streets, parks or nature?
5. The green and blue waste sorting bins give us the power to make less trash and litter. When you care about waste, you are actually caring about our planet and that makes your waste sorting actions powerful everyday! Can you think of other ways to “save our waste” so we can make less trash?