

Reduce . Reuse . Recycle . Recover



**Are you making a difference?**

Section 24 of the South African Constitution states:  
"Everyone has the right to an environment that is  
not harmful to their health or well-being."



**environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





Good waste management follows the 4 Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recover, as well as avoiding illegal dumping and littering.



Waste harms the environment and human beings. It is important to ensure that waste is managed in a way that will minimise its harmful impacts.

### WHAT ARE TYPES OF WASTE?

- BUILDING RUBBLE
- GARDEN REFUSE
- HOUSEHOLD WASTE
- ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT
- INDUSTRIAL WASTE (CHEMICALS/ OIL DRUMS)
- OLD FURNITURE
- SCRAP CAR BODIES

### WHO DUMPS WASTE?

- INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS
- WASTE TRANSPORTERS
- BUSINESSES AND INDUSTRIES
- BUILDERS AND DEMOLISHERS



### WHAT CAN YOU RECYCLE?

- ✓ **PAPER** (CARDBOARD, NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES)
- ✓ **GLASS** (CONTAINERS, JARS AND BOTTLES)
- ✓ **PLASTICS** (BAGS, CONTAINERS AND BOTTLES)

Remember to separate your waste at source!

- ✓ **METAL** (FOOD AND DRINK CANS)
- ✓ **TETRA PAK** (FOIL-LINED CONTAINERS/CARTONS, E.G. MILK AND JUICE BOXES)
- ✓ **POLYSTYRENE** (WHITE TAKEAWAY CUPS AND FOOD CONTAINERS)





# PUZZLE YOUR MIND!!!

WHICH RECYCLE BIN SHOULD EACH PIECE OF LITTER GO INTO? WRITE EACH LETTER IN THE SPACE BELOW THE CORRECT BIN.

*Find the answer on page 4.*



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**UNSCRAMBLE THE LETTERS TO FORM FOUR WORDS:**



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# Making a difference



EVERY TON OF  
GLASS RECYCLED  
SAVES 1,2  
TONNES OF RAW  
MATERIAL.



5 RECYCLED PET  
BOTTLES MAKE  
1 T-SHIRT.



ALUMINIUM  
CANS ARE  
100%  
RECYCLABLE.



1 TONNE OF  
RECYCLED PAPER  
SAVES 3 M<sup>3</sup> OF  
LANDFILL SPACE.



*\*Sourced from the National Recycling Forum*

*Answer for page 3 is 'Help save the earth.'*

# What is littering?

**DO NOT  
LITTER!**



Littering takes place when waste is not properly disposed of. Examples are throwing plastic packets, juice cartons, wrappers and Fruit peels onto the road or onto the ground in open areas.



# What are the impacts of littering?



THERE ARE MANY TYPES OF LITTER FOUND IN OUR COMMUNITIES. IT IS HARMFUL TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND UGLY TO LOOK AT! IT AFFECTS HUMAN HEALTH, BLOCKS WATERWAYS (CAUSING FLOODS) AND DISTURBS VEGETATION. IT CAN GET WASHED INTO STREAMS AND THE OCEAN, RESULTING IN WATER POLLUTION.



BURNING LITTER GIVES OFF POISONOUS GASES THAT POLLUTE THE ATMOSPHERE AND INCREASE GLOBAL WARMING. DUMPING LITTER POLLUTES THE SOIL AND WATER. IT ALSO TAKES UP MORE AND MORE OF OUR LAND, LAND, AND MAY BE EATEN BY ANIMALS, MAKING THEM SICK.

*If you avoid littering and aim to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recover, you will prevent these issues and keep your environment clean. You can also help to save the government money, so that they can use the money to provide other basic municipal services.*





# Activity: innova

## YOU WILL NEED:

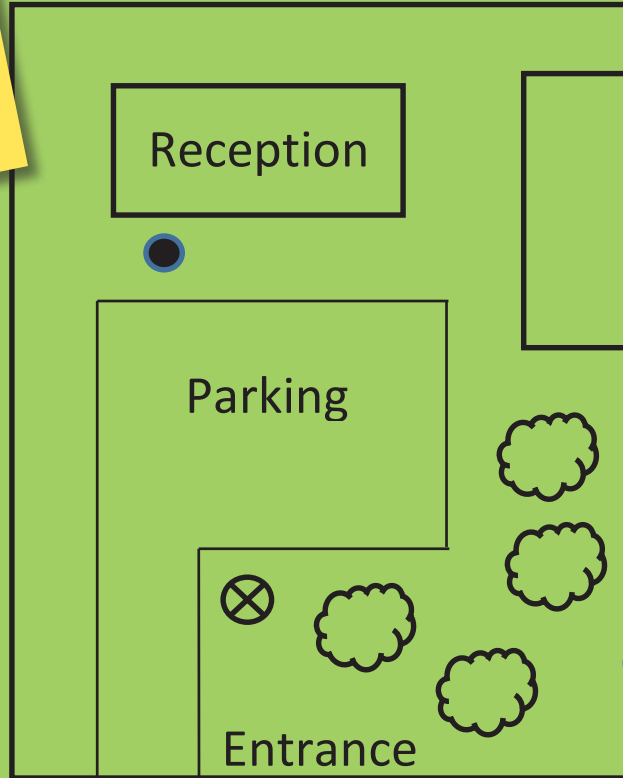
- PAPER AND PEN
- LARGE CONTAINER OR BAG
- CLEAN PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS

2

GO OUT INTO THE AREA THAT YOU HAVE MAPPED AND COLLECT ANY LITTER. ON YOUR MAP, MARK WHERE THE DUSTBINS ARE AND WHERE THE BAD LITTER AREAS ARE. USE CLEAN PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS TO PROTECT YOUR HANDS.

1

ON YOUR PIECE OF PAPER, DRAW YOUR SCHOOL OR AN AREA NEAR



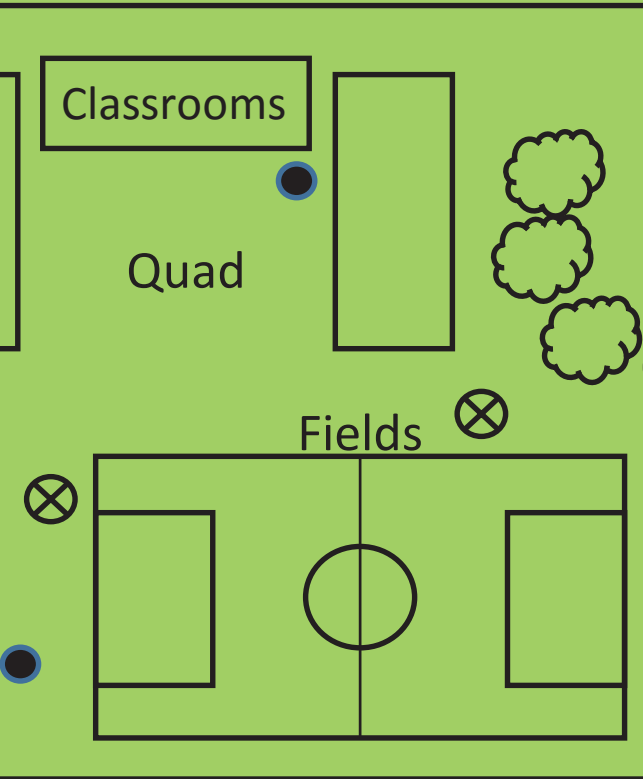
● – Dustbin

4

PICK OUT SOME OF THE LITTER A FOR YOURSELF, YOUR CLASSROOM WILL **ADD VALUE** TO YOUR LIFE C

# ation with litter

W A **MAP** OF  
R YOUR HOME.



⊗ – Bad Litter Area



GOOD GREEN DEEDS

3

SORT THE LITTER INTO ORGANIC (TO MAKE COMPOST) AND INORGANIC LITTER. THEN SORT THE INORGANIC LITTER INTO PAPER, PLASTIC, GLASS, METAL AND NON-RECYCLABLES.

AND TRY TO MAKE SOMETHING **USEFUL** OR **CREATIVE** FOR YOUR COMMUNITY. IT CAN BE ANYTHING THAT **MAKE PEOPLE AWARE** OF THE PROBLEM OF LITTER.

# Contribute to our Planet – Recycle



NO! I see  
*opportunity!*





# duce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover



# How can you contribute?



What are the  
**BENEFITS** of the  
4 Rs?

- \* **CONSERVES NATURAL RESOURCES AND SAVES ENERGY** – BY REUSING AND RECYCLING WASTE FOR THE MANUFACTURING OF NEW ITEMS, INSTEAD OF USING RAW MATERIALS ALL THE TIME.
- \* **SAVES LANDFILL SPACE** – OUR LANDFILL SITES CAN LAST LONGER AND NOT REQUIRE ADDITIONAL LAND, WHICH CAN INSTEAD BE USED FOR OTHER THINGS, E.G. AGRICULTURE AND HOUSING.
- \* **REDUCES POLLUTION** – WHICH COULD HAVE RESULTED IN THE DISPOSAL OF THE MATERIAL.
- \* **CREATES JOBS AND REDUCES POVERTY** – THE INVOLVEMENT OF PEOPLE IN THE VALUE CHAIN CREATES ADDITIONAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES.

**THE 4 RS CAN HELP US TO FIND BETTER WAYS TO MANAGE OUR LITTER.**

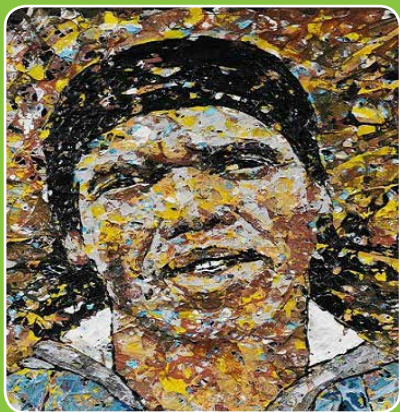
- 1 REDUCE** – CUT DOWN THE AMOUNT OF LITTER WE PRODUCE (E.G. BUY PRODUCTS IN BULK THAT ARE MADE FROM RECYCLED MATERIAL AND USE CANVAS BAGS INSTEAD OF PLASTIC PACKETS FOR SHOPPING).
- 2 REUSE** – FIND WAYS TO USE THINGS AGAIN THAT WE WOULD NORMALLY THROW AWAY, RATHER THAN BUYING NEW THINGS (E.G. OLD TYRES CAN BE USED TO GROW FLOWERS AND WE CAN REUSE PLASTIC OR GLASS BOTTLES INSTEAD OF NEW ONES WHICH USE UP MORE RAW MATERIALS).
- 3 RECYCLE** – RECYCLE THE RUBBISH THAT CANNOT BE REUSED. COLLECT ALL YOUR RUBBISH, SORT IT INTO ITS DIFFERENT CATEGORIES (PAPER, GLASS, METAL, PLASTIC, OTHER), AND THEN PUT IT IN THE CORRECT RECYCLE BINS OR TAKE IT TO A BUY-BACK CENTRE. IT IS THEN USED TO MAKE NEW PRODUCTS (E.G. ALUMINIUM FROM USED COLDDRINK CANS CAN BE RECYCLED TO MAKE OTHER ALUMINIUM PRODUCTS).
- 4 RECOVER** – CONVERT WASTE INTO RESOURCES (SUCH AS ELECTRICITY, HEAT, COMPOST AND FUEL) THROUGH THERMAL AND BIOLOGICAL MEANS.

What else can you do?



- ✓ ALWAYS USE A BIN.
- ✓ SPREAD THE WORD: TELL EVERYONE TO STOP LITTERING AND DUMPING WASTE.
- ✓ GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT BY RUNNING CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGNS.
- ✓ SELL RECYCLABLES TO REWARD YOURSELF.
- ✓ WHEN TRAVELLING, DO NOT THROW WASTE OUT THE WINDOW. CARRY A BAG AND PUT YOUR WASTE INSIDE UNTIL YOU GET TO A PLACE WHERE THERE ARE BINS.
- ✓ REPORT ANY CASE OF SUSPECTED ILLEGAL DUMPING ACTION TO YOUR LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS.

## Making art out of litter



**Self Portrait** by South African artist Mbongeni Buthelezi, who creates Pollockesque canvases using recycled plastic. *Source: Brand South Africa*

“ I use rubbish to create something beautiful from it. I collect something that has no value and give it new life. That's what we can do with ourselves and our lives. ”

**MBONGENI BUTHELEZI** IS A SOUTH AFRICAN ARTIST WHO RECYCLES PLASTIC LITTER AS A CAREER. HE ADDS HEAT TO PLASTIC LITTER AND MELTS IT ONTO HIS CANVAS TO CREATE ART.

FOR ALMOST 20 YEARS HE'S MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF AS ONE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S MOST INNOVATIVE ARTISTS AND A REGULAR EXHIBITOR ON THE LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL ART SCENES.

**THERE ARE GREAT JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN RECYCLING:**

- ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST
- PLASTICS ENGINEER
- WASTE MANAGER
- ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
- WASTE MANAGEMENT COOPERATIVE
- WASTE PICKER



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