

# Throwing away our electronics

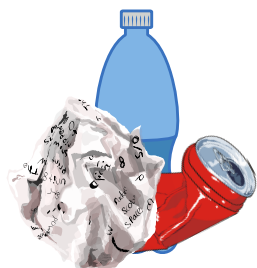
Read the text about throwing away electronics then answer the questions on the next page.

Did you know that humans throw away 50 million tonnes of e-waste every year? E-waste includes TVs, laptops, toasters, so, almost anything that uses electricity to power it. 50 million tonnes is the same as 270,000 jumbo jets, or 333,333 blue whales, or 8,300,000 African elephants!



The rubbish that goes to the landfill can take hundreds or even thousands of years to decompose.

This rubbish can also contaminate the ground around the landfill. This means that chemicals and materials can get into the environment. Some chemicals can harm plants, animals and even humans.



We can stop waste from going to the landfill by recycling it. You can separate your recyclables like paper, plastic and metal for recycling.

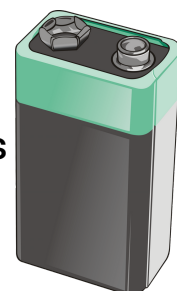


Recycling stops waste from going to the landfill. It is good for the environment because new metals do not have to be mined and trees do not have to be cut down to make paper.

Unfortunately, recycling requires expensive factories to be built. The factories take the materials we put in the bin and turn them into something useful – for example, new plastic bottles or metal cans.

Batteries can also be recycled. Most big supermarkets now have a battery collection point where you can drop off old batteries for recycling.

Recycling batteries isn't as easy as recycling a metal can or plastic bottle because batteries are made up of many different materials, including various metals and plastic. All these materials need to be separated from each other before they can be recycled. This can sometimes require high heat, dangerous chemicals, or big machines.



NAME:

DATE:

1) How much e-waste is thrown away each year?

---

---

2) Name an item of e-waste not mentioned in the text.

---

---

3) How long does it take for most e-waste to decompose in a landfill?

---

---

4) How can we stop waste going to landfills?

---

---

5) Why is recycling good for the environment?

---

---

---

6) Where can you take batteries to be recycled?

---

---

7) Why can't batteries be recycled as easily as other things (e.g. paper)?

---

---

---

8) Name two more advantages and one more advantage to recycling.

### Advantages

- Waste is turned into useful things.
- 
- 

### Disadvantages

- Requires special chemicals to process the waste.
-