

Recycle it!

The contents of 88,000 green bins filled with recyclable waste from British homes has turned up in Indonesia.

Unfortunately it has not been sorted! To make matters worse it was supposed to be just waste paper. Can you sort this mess out?



Prepare a presentation to advise the Indonesian recycling company. What information will you include? Use tables or charts to show the different types and amounts of materials.

Quick compost

People buy compost to grow plants in pots or to put back on the garden to improve the soil.

Plant material such as potato peelings and grass cuttings can be used to make really good compost.

Tiny living things (microorganisms) found in soil use the plant material as food. This is what causes the plant material to decay and turn into compost. To work quickly the tiny living things need food, water, air and warmth. Now think about:

What would help the tiny living things produce compost quickly?

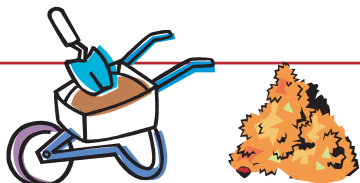






Quick compost

For each suggestion decide if you think it would **speed up** or **slow down** how quickly the compost forms.

Be prepared to back your decisions up with a scientific argument.

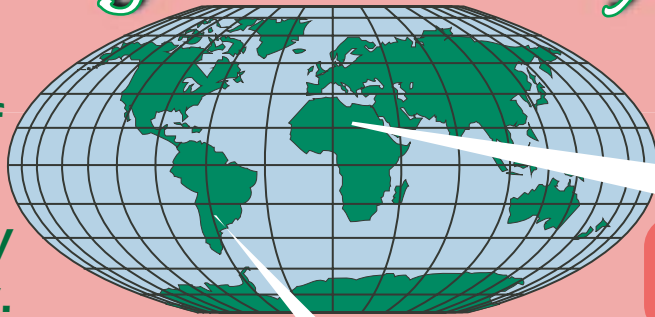
Put a tick in the box you think applies the most

		 Speed up	 Slow down
Mix some soil in with the waste plant material			
Put wee on the plant material			
Dig the compost heap over every few weeks			
Water the compost heap so it is damp but not soaking wet			
Chop any tree branches or large plants up into small pieces			
Tread on the heap to pack it down as much as possible			
Cover the top of the heap with some old carpet and a polythene sheet			
Make the heap in a shady place			

Can you think of any other ideas to speed up the compost making?

Don't just recycle it. Reuse it!

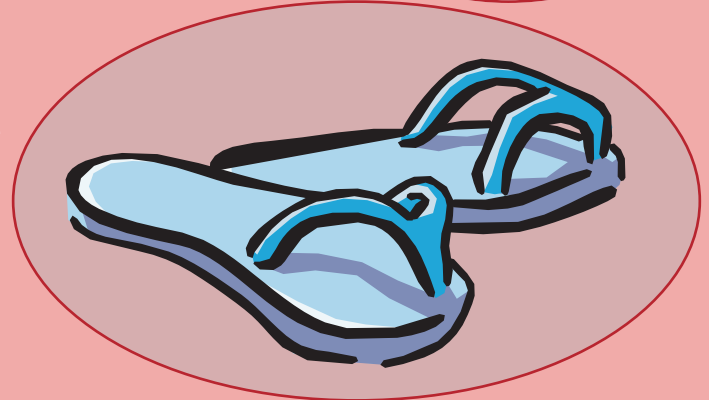
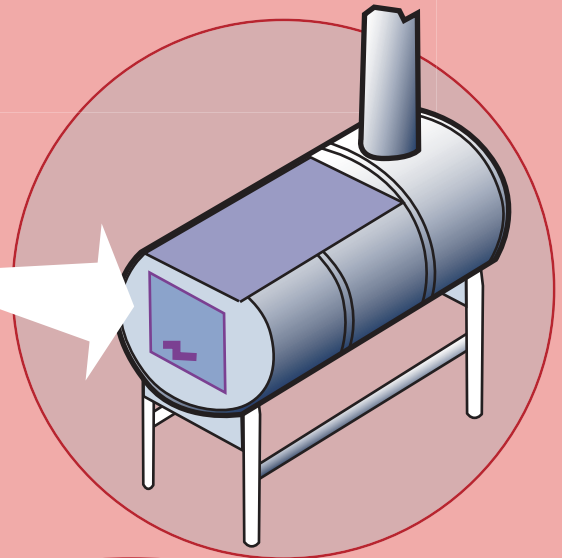
We could reuse lots of objects that we currently throw away. It just needs a bit of creativity!



North Africa



Brazil



In **Brazil** old car tyres are cut up to make the soles for beach sandals.

The rubber is hard wearing, waterproof and gives a good grip.

In **North Africa** old oil drums are cut up to make charcoal stoves for cooking. The metal can be reshaped without breaking and does not melt or break when hot charcoal is placed in it.

Can you think of an original way of reusing a waste item?

Draw a labelled diagram and write a scientific explanation. Show how the properties of the materials are important.