



Why is there  
no waste in  
nature?

## Take it further:

### THINK

What curiosity questions can you ask?

*e.g. What is waste? How do we create waste and where do you see it? Do you know the different types of human-made waste, for example paper, plastics or organic? Do you know which materials can be recycled by nature?*

### FEEL

How might different people feel about this?

*e.g. How do you feel when you see human-made waste or plastic on the streets or in nature? How do you feel when you see people being wasteful?*

### CONNECT

What links can you start to make?

*e.g. What happens to a tree when it falls in the forest? What do worms do in the soil? How does a tree recycle materials, such as its fallen leaves? How can we be more like nature and reuse and recreate things more often?*



## Activity ideas:

1. In nature waste does not exist, because everything that is created is reused again. For example, in autumn many leaves fall from the trees, but they aren't rubbish – they become very useful for the soil by disintegrating and providing lots of nutrients. Take a look outside - or go outside if possible - can you find other examples where nature is recycling itself?
2. Waste is not all the same. Some materials, called *organic materials* such as plants, leaves and food can be broken down by nature. Other materials, like plastics, metals, and glass cannot be broken down by nature so easily. To find out how long it takes for some materials to break down, try this guessing game activity: [How long to decompose?](#)
3. Unlike plastic, leaves and food waste break down and turn into soil. This is nature's way of reusing or recycling its materials. When you throw your food away in the bin, it is often taken to *landfills*. Landfills are large areas of rubbish, where the food cannot compost or break down into soil. To learn more about nature's process of recycling, did you know that you can create your own soil from your food waste?!  
Use this handy guide to make your own: [How to make your own compost](#)
4. Become a waste guardian. If you can leave your house, pick up any pieces of trash you see outside, such as on the streets or in the park. Don't forget to wear gloves and carry a bag to collect the litter as you go!

*\*USE THE **THINKER'S GUIDE** TO HELP YOU*

What other activities could you do?

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