

WORKSHEET: Hazardous Waste

Answers

The hazardous wastes are:

An empty can of pesticide – pesticides can be dangerous to people and wildlife, particularly if they get into water

A can of dried-up paint – paint contains liquid chemicals called solvents. They burn easily and can pollute the air and water.

A used, disposable nappy – these may contain infections which can seep into our groundwater and spread disease.

Asbestos roof-lining – this was used for building in the past because it does not burn. However, breathing the dust can cause cancer and other lung diseases.

A mercury thermometer – mercury is a poisonous metal

An old fridge – fridges contain CFC gases. These destroy the earth's ozone layer.

A lead pipe – lead is a poisonous metal

Engine oil – this can cause pollution of rivers and danger to wildlife

A bottle of acid – some acids can burn skin

A bottle of bleach – bleach is poisonous, it can burn skin and pollute water

A car battery – contains poisonous metals such as zinc and nickel. It can also explode if burned.

Unused pharmaceutical tablets – dangerous if found by children and mistaken for sweets. They can also affect water habitats.

An aerosol can of air-freshener – household aerosols no longer contain CFCs. However, they contain other dangerous chemicals and they explode when they are burned.

WORKSHEET: Hazardous Waste

Hazardous means dangerous. Much of our waste can be classed as hazardous because it is poisonous, pollutes the air or water or causes explosions. Most of our hazardous waste goes to landfill sites where many different types of waste and chemicals are mixed together.

From the list below circle those items of waste which you think would be classed as hazardous. What damage can they cause?

An empty can of pesticide

A can of dried-up paint

A glass jar

A used, disposable nappy

Asbestos roof-lining

Mouldy bread

Some wooden fencing

A mercury thermometer

An old fridge

A lead pipe

Engine oil

A magazine

A bottle of acid

A bottle of bleach

A car battery

An empty, aluminium drinks can

A tube of toothpaste

Unused pharmaceutical tablets

An empty bottle of washing-up liquid

An aerosol can of air-freshener

A sheet of plastic

A blanket

2.7a

Waste Disposal – Hazardous Waste



Learning Objective: to learn which items of waste are hazardous and why

National Curriculum subject
Geography and Science

Resources

- ◆ Copies of the 'Hazardous Waste' worksheet, 2.7a

Approximate length of session
Half an hour

Introduction

Read the introductory paragraph on the worksheet.

You may wish to tell the pupils about the following practice of some industries in southern countries:

Most of the world's hazardous waste is produced in the richer, industrialised countries. The Governments of these countries have brought in laws which make it very expensive for industries to dispose of this waste. One 'solution' to this problem has been to export the waste to southern countries where it can be disposed of cheaply, because the laws have been less strict. Alternatively, some industries, which produce much hazardous waste, have moved their factories to southern countries. The Governments of the southern countries have agreed to this because they welcome the new jobs, money and industries. However, most of these countries do not have the facilities needed to dispose of hazardous waste safely. Consequently, the people living nearby are in danger of suffering from the hazards of our waste!

Pupil Activity

- ◆ In twos or threes pupils identify the hazardous wastes on the worksheet and discuss in what way they are dangerous and to whom. An extension activity could be to discuss ways in which these items could be disposed of safely.

Plenary

- ◆ Feedback their decisions and discuss.

Additional resources

'World Wide Waste' – Warwickshire World Studies Centre