

grade  
4-6

# Waste Reduction

This is a resource developed by Bellarine Catchment Network. Learn how you can easily reduce your waste at home and school.

For more information, email [info@bcn.org.au](mailto:info@bcn.org.au)



# Waste Reduction

grade  
4-6

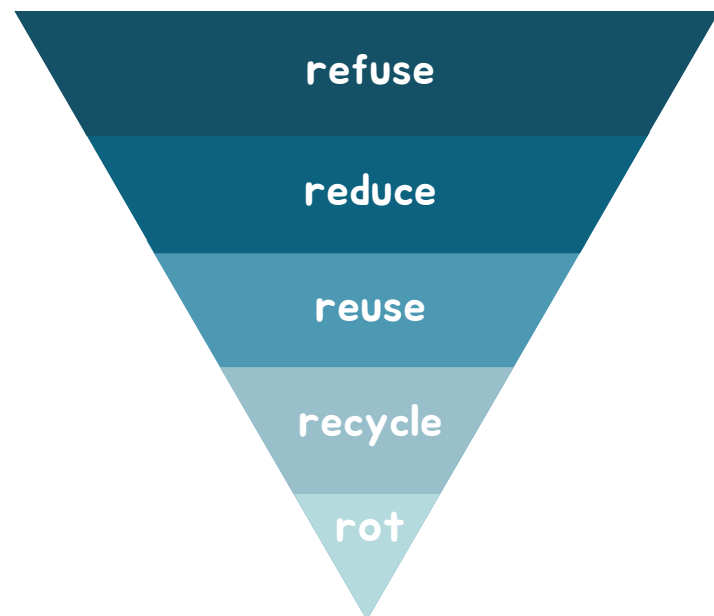
Each week, the average Australian creates 10kg of waste. That is about the same as 2 cats! If you have a big family, you can quickly create a lot of waste in one week. Everything we buy; from our food, toys, phones and clothes use resources that come from the earth. We can all do our part in reducing waste and ensuring we leave the earth in good shape for our grandchildren.

One thing that humans are great at is problem solving. Recycling is one way that we reduce our waste and make the most of existing resources like aluminium and paper. The more that we recycle, the less we have to take from the earth. However, recycling needs to be done properly for it to have the biggest impact.

Choosing reusable products over single use items is an even better way to reduce your waste. Single use items are used for around 1 minute before they go into the trash, but if you use reusable items, you can use it over and over for years.

Some key actions to manage waste:

1. Use reusable items when possible
2. Only buy what you need
3. Leave your lunch 'nude' at school
4. Buy fresh and un-packaged food
5. Store your food properly
6. Use older or soon to go off items first
7. Recycle right in your local council
8. Compost food scraps & shredded paper
9. Rethink your need to buy new
10. Use less to create less!



**the waste pyramid.  
try and refuse  
first!**

# Waste detectives

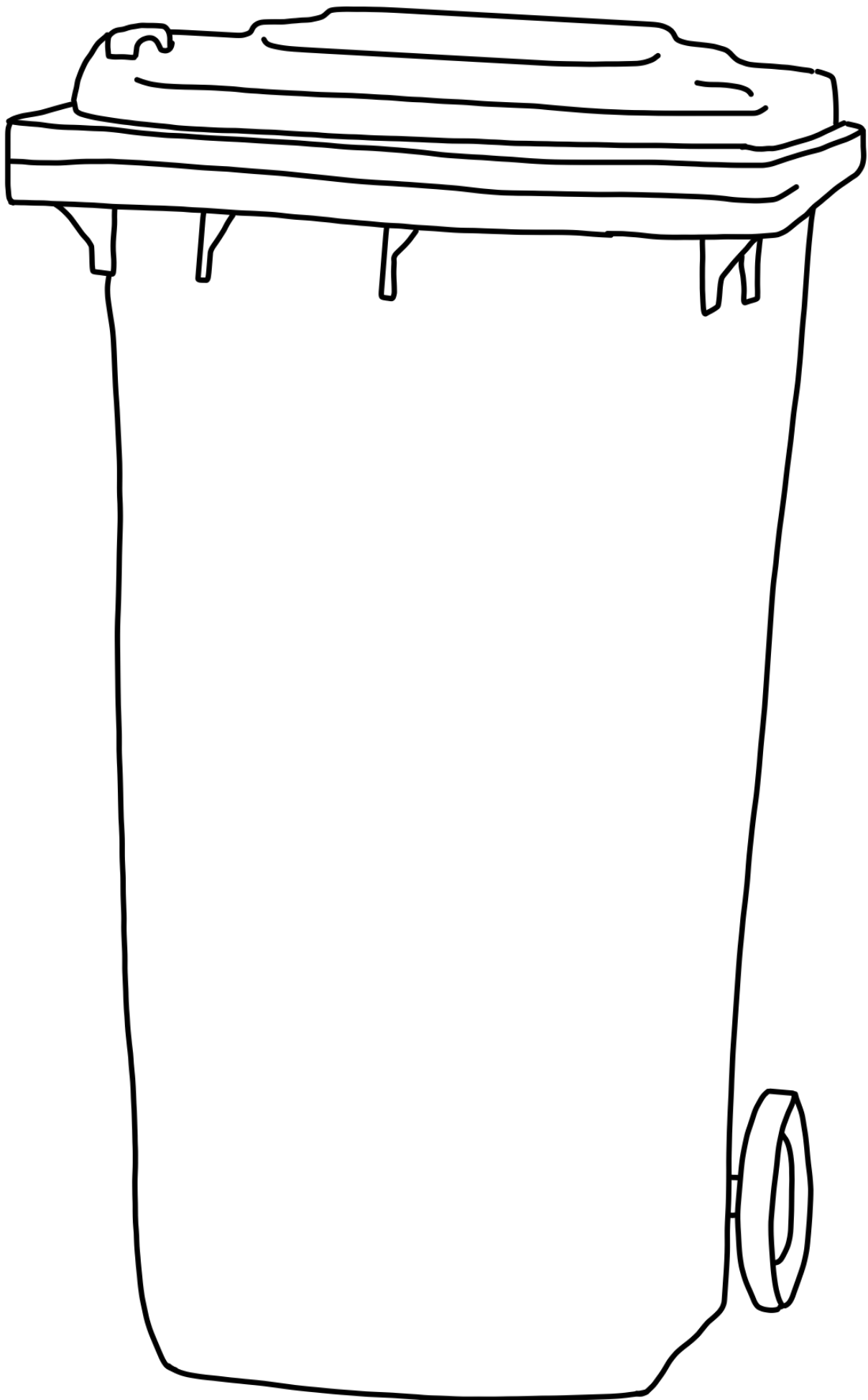
Use this link  
to help you

Use the following pages to match the waste item to the correct bin. Cut out each circle and paste it into the bins on the following pages. You can colour in your bin to match your one at home and then cut them out and stick them on your fridge or near your bins as a reminder.

**Note:** this is based on the City of Greater Geelong bin system. Your council may have different rules so check their website.



rubbish bin

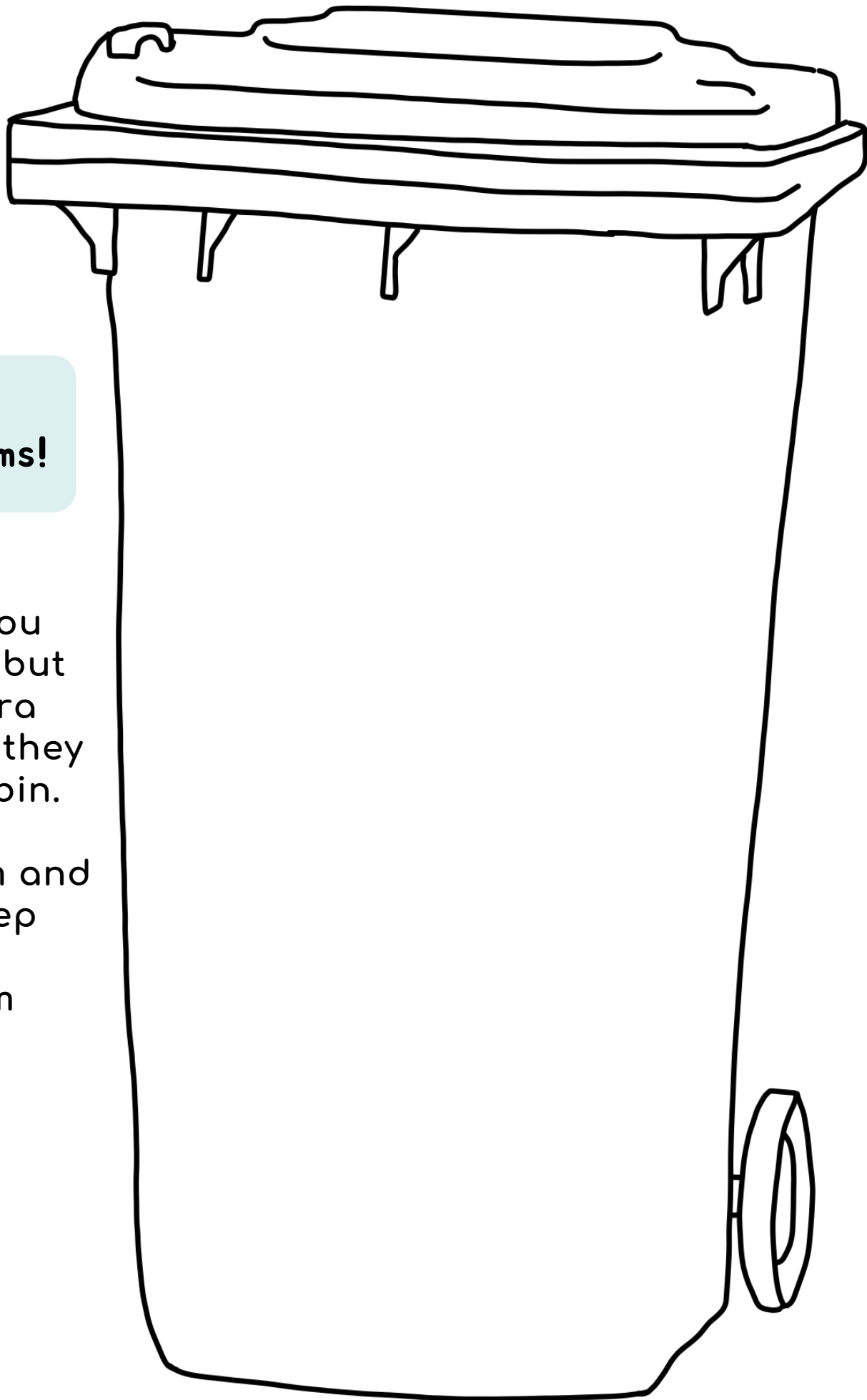


## recycling bin

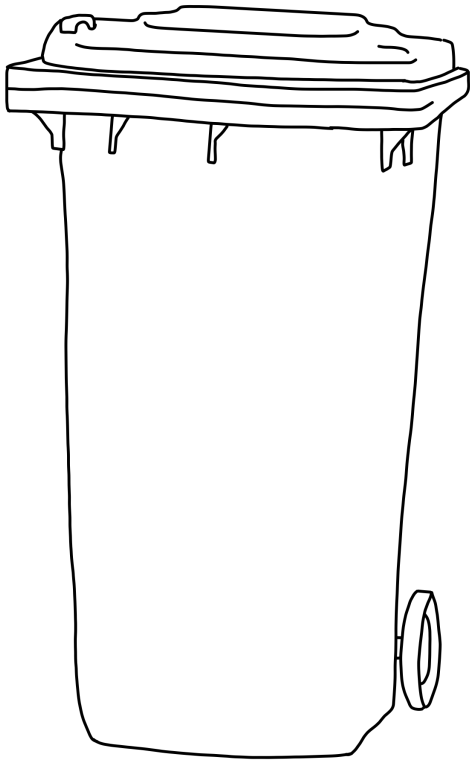
### spot the tricky items!

There are 3 items that you can recycle but need an extra step before they go into the bin.

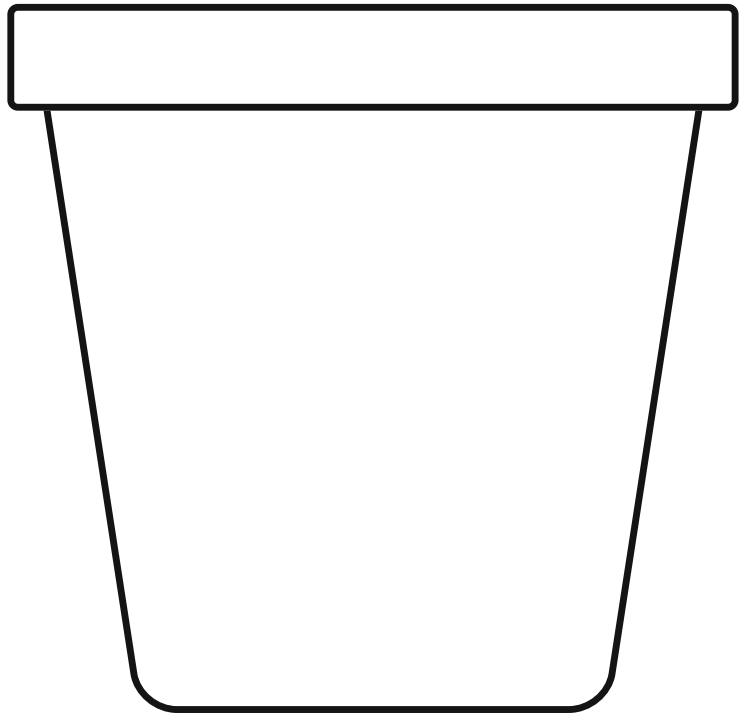
List the item and the extra step needed to recycle them properly.



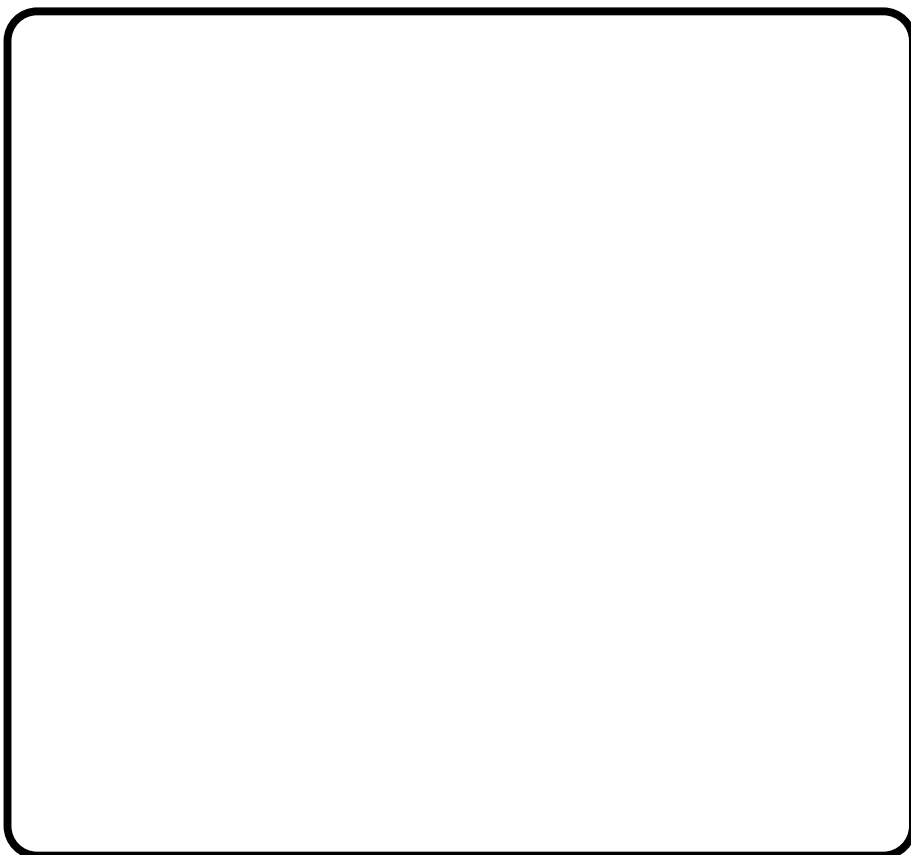
**organic garden bin**



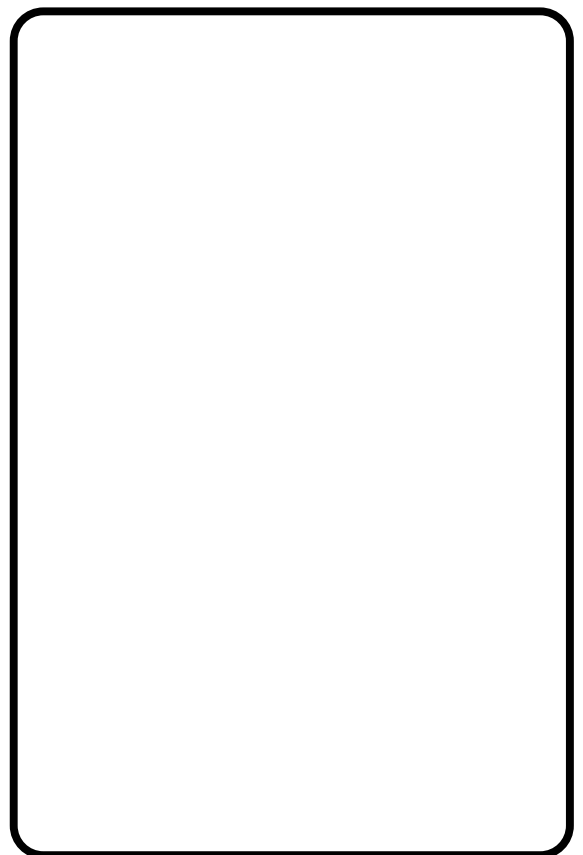
**compost bin or worm farm**



**special recycling or centres**



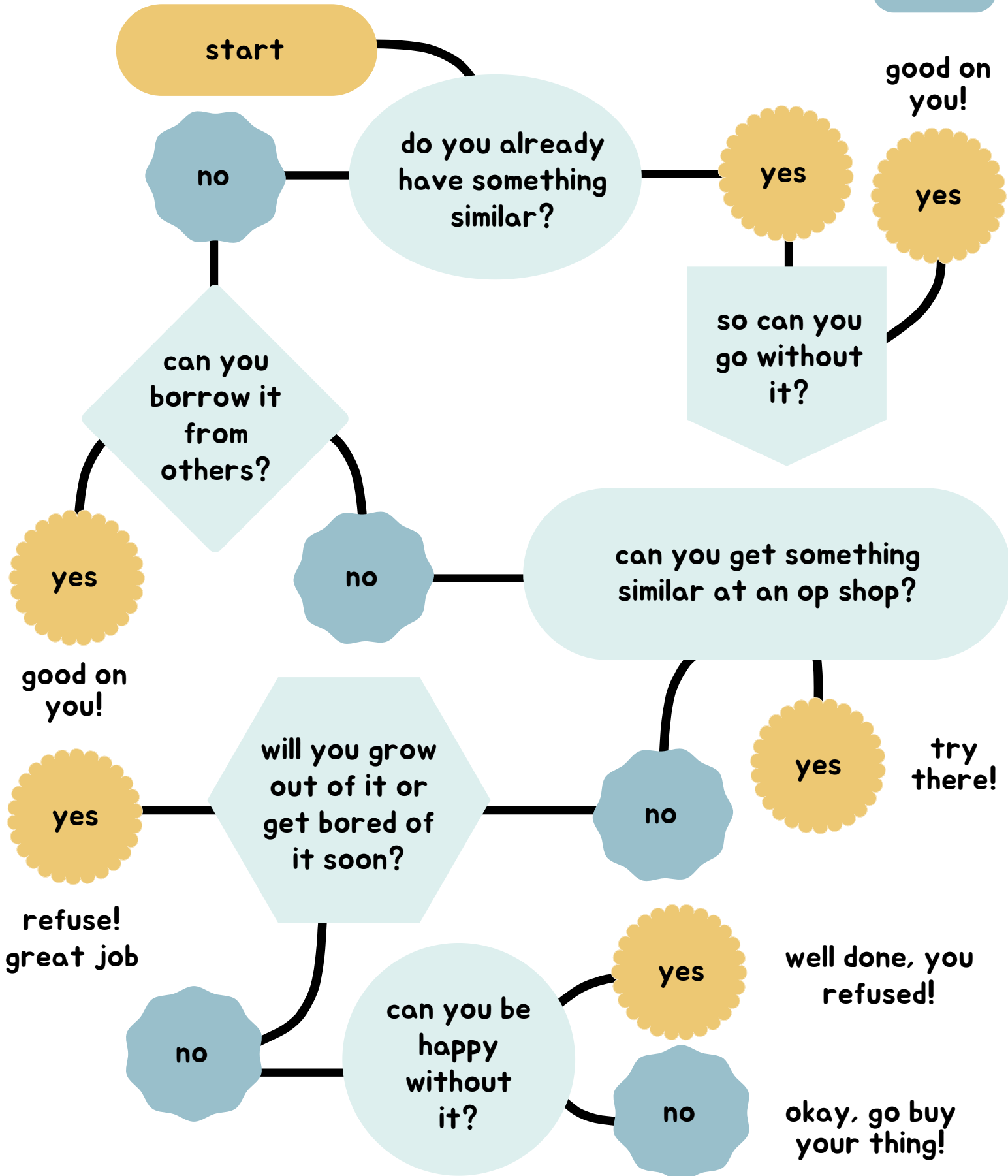
**op shop if in good  
condition**



# The purchasing pathway

Think about something you really want. It might be a toy, a new t-shirt or anything else. Keep it in your mind and move through the flow chart to help you make a decision about buying things!

**stick  
this on  
your  
wall!**

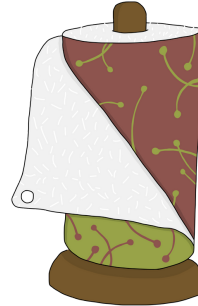


# Choose to reuse

There are lots of reusable products that can replace things that become waste after 1 minute of use. Draw arrows between each reusable item and the waste that is replaced from switching to reusable.



**plastic  
cutlery or  
straws**



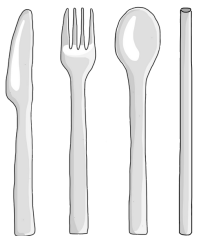
**glad wrap**



**plastic  
bags**



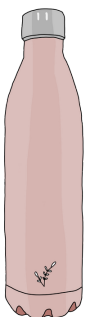
**synthetic  
wipes, paper  
towel**



**plastic or  
polystyrene  
coffee cup**



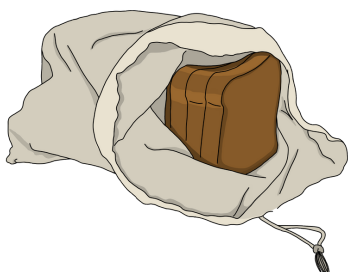
**plastic floss  
and tooth  
brushes**



**plastic  
packaged  
bread or  
produce bag**



**plastic pens,  
highlighters**



**single use  
water  
bottle**



**plastic  
cleaning  
brushes**

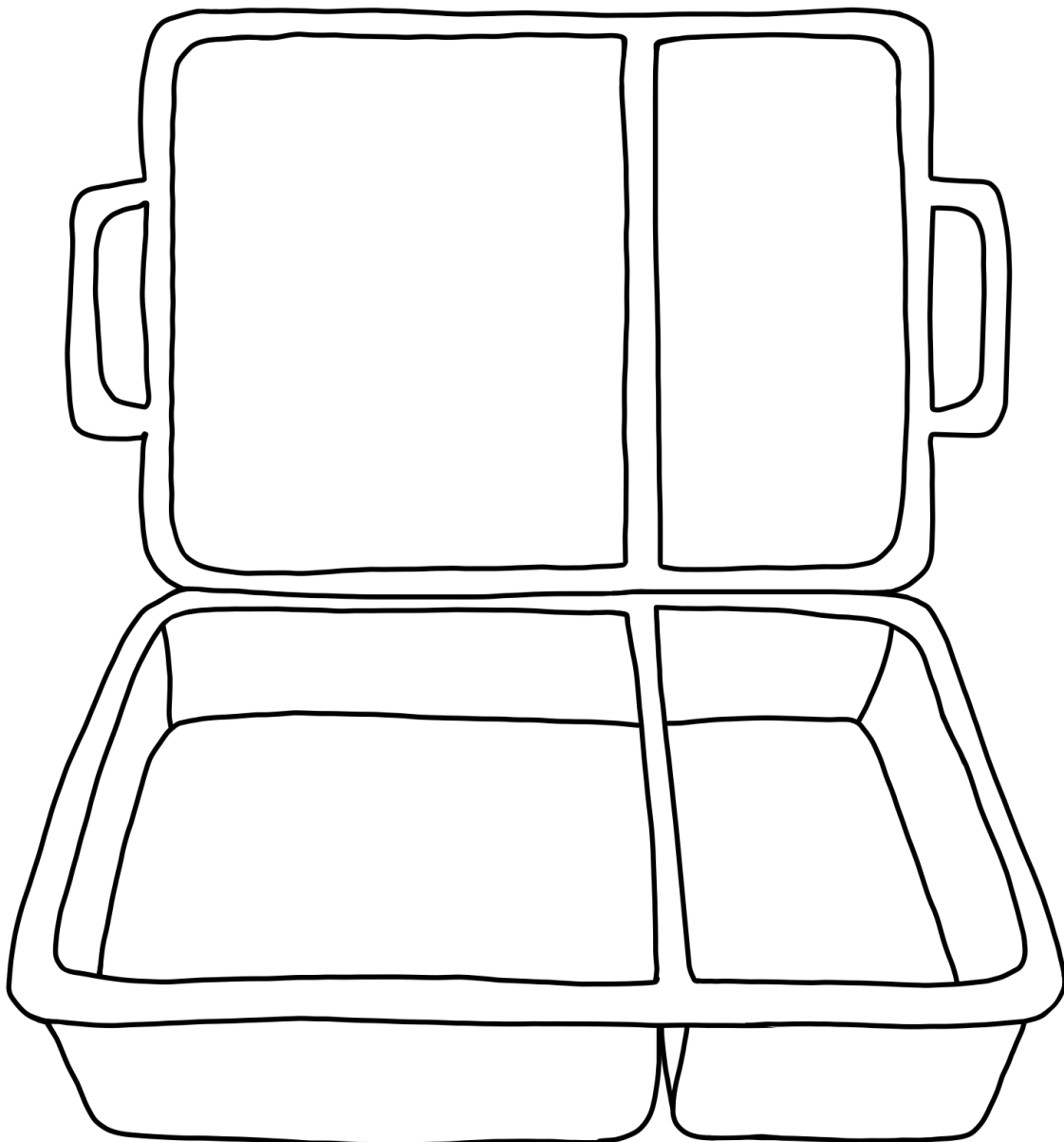


# Nude your food!

[click here for tips](#)

Your challenge is to make your entire lunch nude and avoid all plastic packaging like glad wrap or small packets. Get creative as you look through your fridge and pantry to find things to include. Plan your lunch first and then and then draw a picture of it in the lunchbox below.

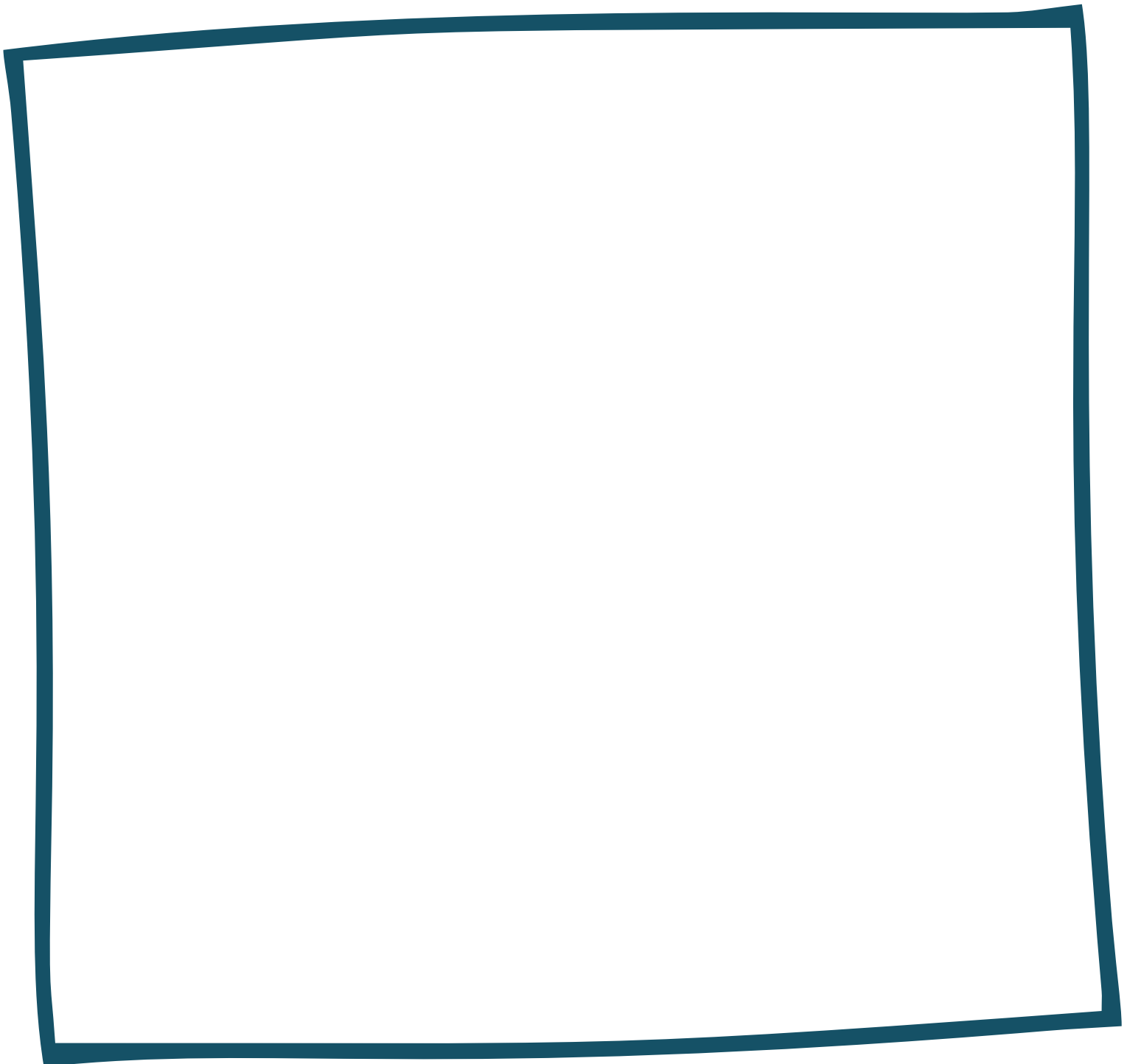
**plan your lunch here**



# My waste mate

[click here  
for ideas](#)

Go for a walk around your house or backyard and look for waste. Collect items that can be used for art (cardboard, paper, fabric, soft and hard plastic, aluminium foil, etc). Get creative and imagine your "waste mate" and plan if it will have arms, legs, tails, tentacles, googly eyes, hair, feathers or other features. Create your mate out of your collected waste and then either paste it in the space below or take a photo of your waste mate and paste the image into the space below.



# Compost colour in

[click here  
for tips](#)

Composting or using a worm farm is a great way to stop food waste going to landfill where it produces gases that cause climate change. Colour in the items below that are good to compost and cross out the items that are bad for your compost. **Tip: have a look through your own compost bin to identify these things.**



# Evaluation

**Test your waste knowledge here to  
see if you are a recycling expert!**

**[click here to test yourself](#)**

What was your favourite activity?

What are some ways you can reduce your waste?

Why do we need to reduce our waste?

Name

---

Teacher

---

Grade

---

Date

---