

Think Recycling

The Recycling Loop: Key stage 1 and 2 additional activities.

Multiple choice questions at the end of each section allow the key points to be reinforced. These suggested activities can be used to extend the loop video further if required.

Stages in the Recycling Loop

Stage	Summary	Extension activity
1	Purchase and consumption	Have the children keep a week-long diary to record the number of aluminium drink cans they use. Also note how they have disposed of them.
2	Recycling	Discussion on how children could encourage recycling in school or at home. Create a list of 'action points' that the children could do. E.g. put all aluminium cans in a bin in the school yard to keep them separate from other waste.
3	Reprocessing	Discuss with the children how the solid aluminium can be turned into liquid aluminium by very high temperatures. What other examples have they seen of this melting as a material is warmed? Examples could include the melting of ice or chocolate. Take a sample of chocolate in a plastic cup and warm it in a bowl of warm water. Use a thermometer to see what temperature it melts at. Take care that the water is not too hot. The melting point of aluminium is 660°C.
4	Sheet production	Use plasticine and a roller to show how the aluminium is rolled and thinned. This is an example of a physical change.
5	Can making	Investigate how to make a can, with both ends filled, from a flat sheet of paper. this is the process required to turn the flat aluminium sheet into a can.
6	Distribution	Draw a flow diagram to show the journey taken by an aluminium can in the whole recycling loop. Start with the can being bought in a shop, go through its use, recycling and return to the shop as an aluminium can.