

Think Recycling

The Recycling Loop: Teachers Notes

The Recycling Loop has been developed to illustrate the life cycle of an aluminium drink can; from purchase by a consumer, disposal, reprocessing and remanufacture back into 'new' cans.

Aimed at key stage 1 and 2 audiences, the activity is also suitable for key stage 3. Footage accompanied by the commentary from a robot character LOOP and on-screen subtitles encourage children to think about what is happening at each stage and how they can contribute to the recycling of aluminium drink cans.

The Loop can be played in its entirety (running time 15 minutes) or stage-by-stage by clicking onto the relevant number on the screen. Multiple choice questions at the end of each stage can be used to reinforce the key points of the clip.

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Stages in the Recycling Loop

| Stage | Summary | Duration (mins) |
|-------|--|-----------------|
| 1. | <p>Purchase and consumption</p> <p>Shows the range of places and uses of aluminium drink cans. 13million are used in the UK each day. Prompts the question, do the children recycle?</p> | 1.15 |
| 2. | <p>Recycling</p> <p>Describes how recycling can save raw materials, energy and waste. Children can consider the opportunities for recycling aluminium cans within their locality. Introduces the Cash for Cans recycling scheme.</p> | 1.50 |
| 3. | <p>Reprocessing</p> <p>Shows the first stage of recycling. It shows how the bales of aluminium cans are first shredded before being melted into liquid aluminium inside large furnaces. The final stage is to cast the liquid aluminium into a solid ingot which can then be used to produce new drink cans.</p> | 5.30 |
| 4. | <p>Sheet production</p> <p>The aluminium ingots are squeezed between rollers to produce very thin sheets which can be used to make new cans. This process illustrates how a material's property can be changed; from a rigid solid block of aluminium to a flexible thin sheet.</p> | 1.15 |
| 5. | <p>Can making</p> <p>Shows how cans are produced and filled with drink. It describes how the properties of aluminium make it suitable as a drink can. Aluminium does not rust or taint the contents, it is light, made easily into cans that can hold liquid under pressure, can have designs printed onto its surface and can be readily recycled.</p> | 3.15 |