

Glass

Glass is made from soda ash, limestone and silica (white) sand. These resources are cheap and plentiful but the processes of converting the materials into glass use large amounts of energy.

Some bottles are made to be re-used over and over again – milk bottles can be used about 20 times before being recycled. Bottles that are not going to be reused can be recycled and made into new glass. The recycling of glass uses far less energy than the production of new glass. When thrown away glass takes a long time to decompose, bottles not collected for recycling today may still be littering the earth in 1000 years.

Activity 1: Make a xylophone

You will need: glass bottles, water, a stick, food colourings

Collect jars or bottles – line them up, pour water into the jars, a little more in each jar so the water is at different levels – run a stick along the jars to make music, you could even use a different food colouring in each bottle or jar to make it more interesting.

Activity 2: Make a bottle garden

You will need: glass bottle, funnel, gravel, compost, water & plants

Make a bottle garden – using a large glass bottle or container – use a funnel and pour in a layer of gravel, then a layer of compost, moisten the compost – lower some plants into the container – spider plants and ferns are good.

