



# Schools Battery Recycling Challenge

## JUNIOR LESSON PLAN

### Curriculum Links:

- **SPHE** (Myself and the Wider World)
- **Geography** (Environmental Awareness and Care)
- **Science** (Environmental Awareness and Care)
- **Sustainability Development Goals Learning**

### Learning Objectives

- Develop an awareness of the ways in which we use batteries in everyday life
- Understand the importance of recycling waste batteries
- Understand what is meant by the term small electrical / electronic waste
- Identify, discuss and implement simple strategies for caring for the environment by recycling waste batteries, electrical and electronic items

### Materials Required

- A battery, paper, crayons / pencils, a timer.

### Introduction

Show pupils a battery (or draw a battery on the board). Ask pupils to identify what it is and elicit that batteries power electrical items. Ask pupils to think of some electrical items that use batteries and discuss as a class.

### Activity 1: Group Task

- Ask pupils to work in groups. Give each group a sheet of paper.
- Instruct groups to draw and label two columns on their paper as follows: 'In School' and 'At Home'. Ask pupils to think about, discuss and list items which use batteries in school and at home e.g. remote control, laptop, mobile phone, toy car. Discuss as a class.

### Activity 2: Whole Class - Story and Discussion

Read the following short story to the class:

#### The Car That Zoomed No More

*Jane loved to play with her toys every day. Her favourite toy was a big red shiny remote-control car. She loved to make it move quickly and zoom all around her home. 'Zoom Zoom' she said as she watched the wheels spin round and round. One day she skipped to her toy box and carefully took out her red car. She placed it on the ground and pressed the GO button. The wheels began to move slowly, spin, spin and then STOP. No more spinning! Jane pressed the GO button again but nothing at all happened this time. Jane didn't know what was wrong with her shiny red car! Jane's Daddy said "Jane, I think the battery is gone in your car. That's why it won't work right now. Let's get a new battery to replace it." Smiling, Jane said "Thanks, Dad! What will we do with the old battery?"*



Recycle waste batteries to protect our environment and support LauraLynn, Ireland's Children's Hospice.

LauraLynn Ireland's Children's Hospice. Registered Charity Number 20154844.



Discuss the story, eliciting the following information: batteries powered the car and remote; when the batteries had no power, the car wouldn't work; when a battery stops working it needs to be replaced.

Ask pupils to predict what happens next in the story. Tell pupils that most batteries are put into rubbish bins and taken to landfill sites but that Jane and her Daddy wanted to help the environment, so they recycled the battery. Inform pupils of the following:

- Batteries contain dangerous chemicals and when batteries are left in landfill sites these chemicals can leak into the ground. This is bad for the soil and water. This can be dangerous for animals and humans.
- Recycling waste batteries is a great way to help the environment.
- Each battery recycled is taken apart and the materials are used to make something new.
- Rechargeable batteries are good for the environment. They can be used more than once.

Write the acronym (WEEE) on the board, explaining that WEEE Ireland organises the recycling of batteries.

#### Inform pupils about how they can recycle their waste batteries:

1. Collect all waste batteries at home
2. Bring them to school & place into the WEEE Ireland Blue Battery Box
3. Waste batteries can then be returned for recycling at any shop that sells batteries or electrical goods, that has a WEEE Ireland Blue Battery Box or to your nearest Local Authority Recycling Center.
4. If your school has 10 full large 5 kilo sized Blue Battery Boxes you can log on to [weeireland.ie](http://weeireland.ie) to arrange a free collection.

WEEE Ireland will then bring all the used batteries to the recycling factory!

#### Activity 3: Pair Task – Against the Clock

Explain that as well as recycling batteries, WEEE helps us to recycle any waste electrical items from home, with a plug or battery. Inform pupils that **it's important to recycle all small electrical waste when it is old or broken**, for example, toasters, toys with batteries, torches and hairdryers.

Tell pupils you are going to play a game, working in pairs. The aim of the game is for pupils to list as many items as they can think of which use electricity, within a given time. There are 3 categories - **1) Toys**, **2) Technology**; and **3) Household items**.

- Teacher to set a timer to countdown 40 seconds for pupils, in pairs, to write/draw their list.
- Teacher to call aloud one of the topics listed above, for each game of 'Against the Clock'.
- Pupils to check how many items they could think of for each category.
- Discuss as a class, making a list on the board of items for each category.

#### Activity to Close: Individual Task – WEEE Pledge

Inform pupils that each year **European Battery Recycling Week takes place in September and International E-Waste Day takes place in October**.

Ask pupils to write down their goals to recycle in their copy books and how they will achieve them to help the environment by recycling batteries and small electrical and electronic waste, for example:

- 'I will collect and recycle 10 waste batteries'*
- 'I will remind my family to recycle anything with a plug or battery at home when they have reached the end of their useful life'*
- 'I will fill one my battery box'*

Visit [weeireland.ie/battery-recycling-challenge](http://weeireland.ie/battery-recycling-challenge) for more free resources, activities and details of our **Schools Battery Recycling Competition** - where **pupils have the chance to win a prize for their class / school by recycling waste batteries!**

