



RUBBISH GRAVEYARD

How fast do things biodegrade and become part of the earth again?

Biodegrade means; to decay and become absorbed by the environment

Rubbish Graveyard

Materials

Shoe Box or similar shaped cardboard box

Sand

Large Lollipop Sticks

A4 White Paper

Cereal Box

Glue Stick

Sellotape

Scissors

Pencil & Ruler

Black marker

Crayons, markers or paint



Method

Cut the cereal box along the top and sides to end up with two separate large sides. Recycle the rest. Divide one sheet of white paper into a 6 or 12 square grid using the ruler and pencil (depending on how many small signs you would like to make)

Write the biodegrading information for each item on separate squares in the grid using the black marker. Glue this sheet to the printed side of one of the sheets of cardboard from the cereal box. Trim the edges and cut along the gridlines to create little signs. A large sign has been included for this exercise, but you can create your own. Glue the large sign onto the other large piece of cardboard from the cereal box.

Tape a lollipop stick to the back of each sign. Tape two sticks to the base of the large sign, spacing them apart so that they can both fit inside the shoe box at the narrow end.

Using the sides of the shoe box as a template for depth, cut lengths of A4 paper to fit all around the side. Decide on a theme and then line up the lengths of paper and draw on them using crayons etc. Glue the finished drawings to the sides of the shoe box.

Fill the box with sand and put the large sign at one end, insert the small signs into the sand in two rows or randomly.

We would like to thank *An Tairseach for Sharing this resource. Find our more about An Tairseach by clicking: [An Tairseach | Accommodation, Workshop Venue, Organic Farm Shop](#)*

**Aluminium
Can**

80–100 years

Vegetables

5 days to
1 month

Paper

2–5 months

Tetra Pak

5 years

**Glass
Bottles**

1 million years

**Styrofoam
Cup**

500 years
to forever

Plastic Bags

500 years
to forever

**Leather
Shoes**

25 to 40 years

**Disposable
Nappy**

250 to 500 years

Cotton T-shirt

6 months

Wool socks

1–5 years

Tin cans

50–100 years