

# Litter breakdown timeline game



**Challenge the group to estimate how long rubbish takes to decompose - they will be surprised!** This activity can be done individually or in small groups.

1. Print off copies of the quiz sheet below.
2. Print off the Match Up Sheets in colour, single-sided and laminate. Then cut along the black lines separating the litter images and breakdown times.
3. Spread out the litter images and breakdown times for everyone to try to match up and fill in their quiz sheet.
4. Read through the Answer Sheet together and see who got the most correct answers.
5. Discuss the consequences of littering, e.g. makes the area unsightly, attracts rats, may harm other wildlife, pollutes water ways, can be fined for littering, etc.

**Please Note:** The figures shown here are just estimates, and may vary depending on the local environmental conditions (e.g. heat, wind, rain, etc.) Items sent to landfill may take even longer than the times suggested here due to the anaerobic (lack of oxygen) conditions when the rubbish is compacted.

# Litter breakdown quiz sheet

Match up the images of the items below with the time cards to estimate how many weeks, months or years it takes for these items to breakdown and rot away when discarded as litter.



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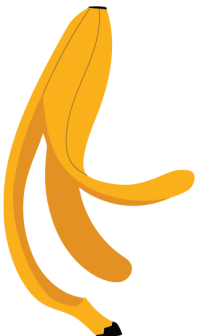
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Name.....

# Litter breakdown times

This shows how long items take to decompose when discarded as litter

Paper – 1 month

Apple – 2 months

Cotton Clothes – 5 months

Banana Peel – Up to 2 years

Cigarette Butt – 2 to 5 years

Steel Can – 80 to 100 years

Aluminium Can – 200 to 500 years

Plastic Bottle – 450 years

Disposable Nappy – 300 to 500 years

Glass Bottle - Never





Paper

1 month



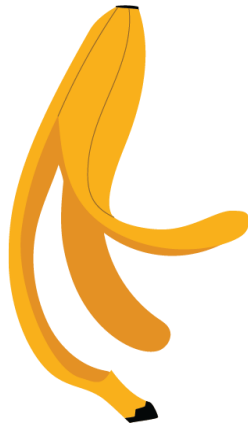
Apple

2 months



Cotton clothes

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Banana peel

Up to 2 years



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Glass bottle

Never