

# PROJECT GO – LESSON PLAN

## Topic: Waste Words & Meanings (Years P–3)

*Learning important waste words and what they mean*



### Overview

**Project GO** is a sustainability education program that helps students understand waste, recycling, and caring for the environment through storytelling, characters, and hands-on activities.

This lesson builds on the Project GO characters and themes to help students **understand important waste and recycling vocabulary words** used throughout the program.

Students will explore and discuss words such as waste, recycling, compost, reuse, landfill, and sorting, and connect them to real-world environmental actions.

This lesson is designed to work directly with the **Project GO P–3 Worksheet 1** and can be delivered as a stand-alone classroom activity or alongside other Project GO resources.

### Objective

This lesson aims to help students:

- Recognise important **waste and recycling vocabulary** words
- Understand what key **sustainability** words mean
- Connect vocabulary words to **real-world actions** at home and school

Through discussion and a word search activity, students reinforce their understanding that waste can be **reused, recycled, composted, and sorted** into the correct bins.

### Materials

- Whiteboard or interactive screen
- **PROJECT GO P–3 Worksheet 1: “Gerald’s Word Finder”** (one per student)
- Whiteboard markers
- Pencils or markers

## Lesson plan

### 1. Review & Introduction (10 minutes)

Begin with a whole-class discussion.

Ask students:

- What is **waste**?
- What happens when we finish **using** something?
- What words have you heard about **recycling or sorting** waste?

Explain that:

- Learning important waste words helps us understand how to **care for the environment**
- These words are used every day at home, school, and in the community
- Understanding these words helps us keep our community clean

Write the following words on the board:

- Waste
- Recycling
- Compost
- Sorting
- Reuse
- Landfill

Say each word together as a class.

## 2. Explore Waste Words & Meanings (10 minutes)

Review the meaning of each word together using simple explanations from the worksheet:

- **Waste** – Anything we've finished using
- **Recycling** – The process of turning waste into new things
- **Compost** – A mix of garden organics and kitchen scraps. It can be used to improve soil and help plants grow
- **Sorting** – Separating our waste into the correct bins
- **Reuse** – To use something again
- **Landfill** – A big hole in the ground where our general waste gets buried

Use leading questions:

- Which words sound familiar?
- Which words help the environment?
- Which word means using something again?
- Which word means putting waste into the correct bin?

Reinforce that:

- Waste can often be turned into **something useful**
- **Sorting waste** properly helps recycling and composting work correctly
- Everyone can help the environment by making good waste choices

Explain that students are going to practise finding these important words in a Project GO activity.

## 3. Activity – Gerald's Word Finder (20 minutes)

Distribute the **PROJECT GO P-3 Worksheet 1** to each student.

Explain the task clearly:

- Students will search for and circle the most important waste words hidden in the puzzle
- The words can go across, down or diagonally
- Students should try to recognise the words from the class discussion

Once students finish:

- Review the words together as a class
- Ask volunteers to explain what each word means

Celebrate success and reinforce the key message:

*Waste can be reused, recycled, composted and sorted into the correct bins.*

## 4. Reflect & Connect (10 minutes)

Discuss as a class:

- Which word was easiest to find?
- Which word was new to you?
- Which words can help us care for the environment?

Optional extension:

- Ask students to draw one waste item and explain which word connects to it
- Invite students to share one thing they can reuse, recycle, or sort correctly today

### Australian Curriculum (ACiQ v9) Connections

#### English

- Literacy
- Vocabulary development and comprehension

#### Science

- Science understanding – Biological sciences
- Science as a human endeavour – Use and influence of science

#### HASS

- Knowledge and understanding – Geography
- Skills – Communicating and decision-making

#### General Capabilities

- Literacy
- Critical and Creative Thinking
- Personal and Social Capability

#### Cross-Curriculum Priority

- Sustainability

**Where to Find More** Additional Project GO digital stories, activities, and resources are available for students, teachers, and families to continue learning at:

**PROJECT-GO.COM.AU**