



# EMPIRIBOX

## Primary School Science

Empiribox is dedicated to science and improving the science education in primary schools.

In this investigation, children will learn about why it is important to recycle batteries and make a poster to explain it to others.

Spectacular Science

Recycling Batteries

## Why do we need to recycle batteries?

We use batteries in many different things every day. Take a look around your classroom right now and see if you can count how many things in the room use batteries; i.e. remotes, toys, Bluetooth devices, watches, laptops and phones.

On average, every UK adult uses 10 batteries a year – or 600 million if we add everyone's altogether - and most people just throw them straight into the bin. Rubbish that goes into non-recycling bins ends up in landfill sites and batteries in here will begin to decay. When they start to break down, they release harmful chemicals, such as mercury, zinc and lithium into the ground which is not only harmful to the environment but wasteful as these precious elements can be reused in manufacturing.

### Problems caused by not recycling batteries

1. Soil and water become toxic meaning animals can die and habitats are destroyed
2. A rise in greenhouse gas emissions from having to transport waste and sources of new materials for batteries
3. Increased in use of fossil fuels to create more batteries

### How can we recycle batteries?

In nearly all supermarkets or local recycling centres, there is a box that you can put used batteries in to recycle them. These are collected specifically so that the batteries can be destroyed responsibly, and the valuable elements are taken out of them and reused.

To find your local recycling centre and what you can dispose of there, see this page - <https://www.recyclenow.com/local-recycling?rlw-initial-path=places/all%3Fmaterials%3D28>

## Activity – make a poster

Have each pupil make a poster explaining why we need to recycle batteries and how we can do this

## Class Discussion

Can you think of a way that we can reduce the amount of batteries we use? Think about rechargeable batteries, alternative power supplies such as renewable energy and plugging devices into the mains electric rather than relying on their battery power (exceptions include phones and laptops).

### Top Tip

More advanced children can include tips on how to reduce the use of batteries on their posters.

Share your classes designs on twitter and use the hashtag #SpectacularScience so we can all see!