

Know it Better

2

Some people think that rubbish is gone after they throw it away, but it is not the case. Rubbish may take a long time to decompose in the landfill.

1 – 2 million years

Glass can be recycled but it takes a long time to decompose once thrown away. Hong Kong people dump around 204 tonnes (1 tonne = 1,000 kilogrammes) of glass bottles every day and most of them go to the landfill.



How long does it take for rubbish to decompose?

450 years

Many people like buying bottled drinks instead of using their own bottles. Hong Kong people dump around 132 tonnes of plastic bottles each day. Only some are recycled.



200 years

Aluminium cans

50 years

Cigarette butts

A Which of the following is the hardest to decompose? Write 1 (most difficult) to 4 (least difficult) in the boxes.

			
			
1 <input type="text"/>	2 <input type="text"/>	3 <input type="text"/>	4 <input type="text"/>

_____ are the hardest to decompose.

10–20 years

Plastic shopping bags were once a serious problem in Hong Kong. In 2005, around 22 million plastic shopping bags were thrown away. The situation has slightly improved now due to the plastic bag levy implemented since 2015.



2 months

Apple cores

6 weeks



3 months

Waxed cartons

Green Tips

Think about the four 'R's before throwing any rubbish away:

Reduce - decrease waste

Reuse - use old things again

Recycle - change waste into reusable things

Repair - fix broken things

Let's CARE more for our WORLD!

B Eric wants to recycle something. Choose the correct boxes to guide him out of the maze. Circle the recycle bin he will use.



Glass bottles cannot be recycled.	Apple cores can decompose in months.	We dump many plastic bottles every day.	'Reduce' means using things again.
We should not repair things if they are broken.	Rubbish is recycled in the landfill.	We should reuse things more often.	We should buy fewer bottled drinks.
'Recycle' means to fix broken things.	We have dumped more plastic bags since 2015.	We should create more waste.	Glass takes a long time to decompose.
We should buy new clothes every year.	The plastic bag levy is bad for the environment.	We should reuse old things whenever possible.	We can change waste into useful things.

