

A story



This is Skye and her family. They're from South Africa and they're moving house because her mother found a better job as a scientist in New Zealand. Today is packing day and they're deciding what to keep, donate or sell, especially because they can't fly everything from one country to another.

What's e-waste?

Let me show you.


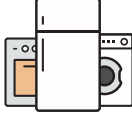


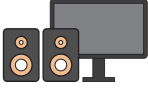


What is e-waste?

E-waste is old or broken electronic things. This can be old phones, computers, TVs and other devices.

E-waste can contain or produce dangerous chemicals. When you throw e-waste away, these chemicals go into the ground and water, polluting them.

Many parts of electronic items can be reused. When you throw them away, you waste them.

 e-waste groups	Large household appliances 	Small household appliances 	IT and telecommunications equipment 	Consumer electronics 
They consume a lot of energy.	✓	✓	✓	✓
They're made of a lot of materials.	✓	✓	✓	✓
They contain or produce toxic chemicals.	✓	✓	✓	✓
People replace them frequently.		✓	✓	✓
People throw them in the bin.		✓	✓	

What can we do with e-waste?



Remember the 3 Rs!

Recycle
 You can take your old electronic items to recycling centres, where technicians recycle them: they dismantle them and reuse the parts.

Reuse
 If your electronic items still work, you can donate them. This way, things have a longer life cycle.

Reduce
 You can try to buy fewer electronic items. You can also take good care of your devices, so they last longer.



And this way, Skye and her family found a solution for their e-waste.

Check your understanding

1 What is the best title for the story on pages 2 and 3? Tick (✓).

- 1 Packing day 2 What is e-waste? 3 Skye and e-waste

2 Write the answers.

1 Why is it a special day for Skye and her family?

2 What things did Skye's mum put in the e-waste box?

3 Why can e-waste be dangerous?

4 What do Skye and her family do at the end of the story?

3 Look at the first table on page 3 and circle **T** (for True), **F** (for False) or **DS** (for Doesn't say).

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 You can usually replace fridges and washing machines. | <input type="radio"/> T | <input type="radio"/> F | <input type="radio"/> DS |
| 2 It's easy to throw small appliances away. | <input type="radio"/> T | <input type="radio"/> F | <input type="radio"/> DS |
| 3 All e-waste is made using a lot of materials. | <input type="radio"/> T | <input type="radio"/> F | <input type="radio"/> DS |
| 4 Computers and printers don't use much energy. | <input type="radio"/> T | <input type="radio"/> F | <input type="radio"/> DS |
| 5 People enjoy using consumer electronics in their free time. | <input type="radio"/> T | <input type="radio"/> F | <input type="radio"/> DS |
| 6 All e-waste has chemicals that are safe for the environment. | <input type="radio"/> T | <input type="radio"/> F | <input type="radio"/> DS |

4 Complete the sentences with these words. There is an extra word.

large donate mouse new pollute recycle reduce

- Many old or broken devices can turn into e-waste. For example, a _____, a printer or headphones.
- E-waste has dangerous chemicals that _____ planet Earth.
- You can _____ many electronic parts from air conditioners, fans, laptops or hi-fi systems.
- Household appliances can be divided into _____ or small.
- When you _____ devices, you give them to people who need them.
- If you take care of devices, you don't need to buy _____ ones frequently.

Think about the story


- 1 Look at the devices in the second scene on page 2 and, in your notebook, classify them into the categories from the first table on page 3.
- 2 Read and discuss: What can you do with items a–j?

Tips on what to do with e-waste to protect the environment:



- 1 Fix your devices, if possible, for continued use.
- 2 Give them to hospitals.
- 3 Give them to charities.
- 4 Give them to libraries.
- 5 Give them to community centres.
- 6 Give them to schools.
- 7 Give them to someone who needs them.
- 8 Send them to a place that recycles e-waste.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| a an old microwave | f an old games console |
| b an old mobile phone | g an old fridge |
| c a broken desktop computer | h an old washing machine |
| d a broken tablet | i a broken coffee maker |
| e an old printer | j a broken hi-fi system |

- 3  In pairs, design a leaflet to help people understand what e-waste is, why it is bad for the environment and how we can reduce it. Include the information you consider most relevant. Then share it with your class.

What do you and your family do with the e-waste you generate?

