

Climate Chaos

Day 3 Morning session: Our contribution to climate change

Activity 2: The fossil fuel energy in our food and drink (1 hour 15 minutes)

You will need

- **Worksheet: 'Life history of an aluminium can'** either projected onto a whiteboard – or enough copies for the pupils to look at, e.g. one between two (below).
- Breakfast cereal boxes – enough for one per group of 4 –5 children
- Large and small sheets of paper
- Pencils and coloured pencils

Aim

To increase awareness of the 'hidden energy' in all the material goods we use and consume.

What to do

Show the class the Life history of an aluminium can. Talk through the process that it shows. (Bauxite is a rock from which aluminium is made. It has to be dug up from the ground using big, oil-powered machines) Point out that this is just about the can – it does not include all the ingredients that go into the drink inside it, or the inks that are used to print the pictures on the outside.

Ask the children to form groups of 4–5 and give each group a cereal box.

Ask them to write the name of their breakfast cereal in the middle of a sheet of paper and draft a flow-chart showing all the processes that went into making that box of cereals. They should consider all the stages the box itself has been through (from cutting down the trees, to reaching someone's home) and the ingredients that went into the cereal (e.g. wheat, sugar, raisins – they can look at the list of ingredients on the box) and the journey they may have gone through before they got into the box.

They should make a rough copy first (it is likely to look quite messy!).

Then each child should choose two or three of the processes to illustrate (e.g. a combine harvester harvesting the wheat; machines folding the boxes; filling the boxes on a conveyor belt, etc.) and draw a picture of each process on a small piece of paper.

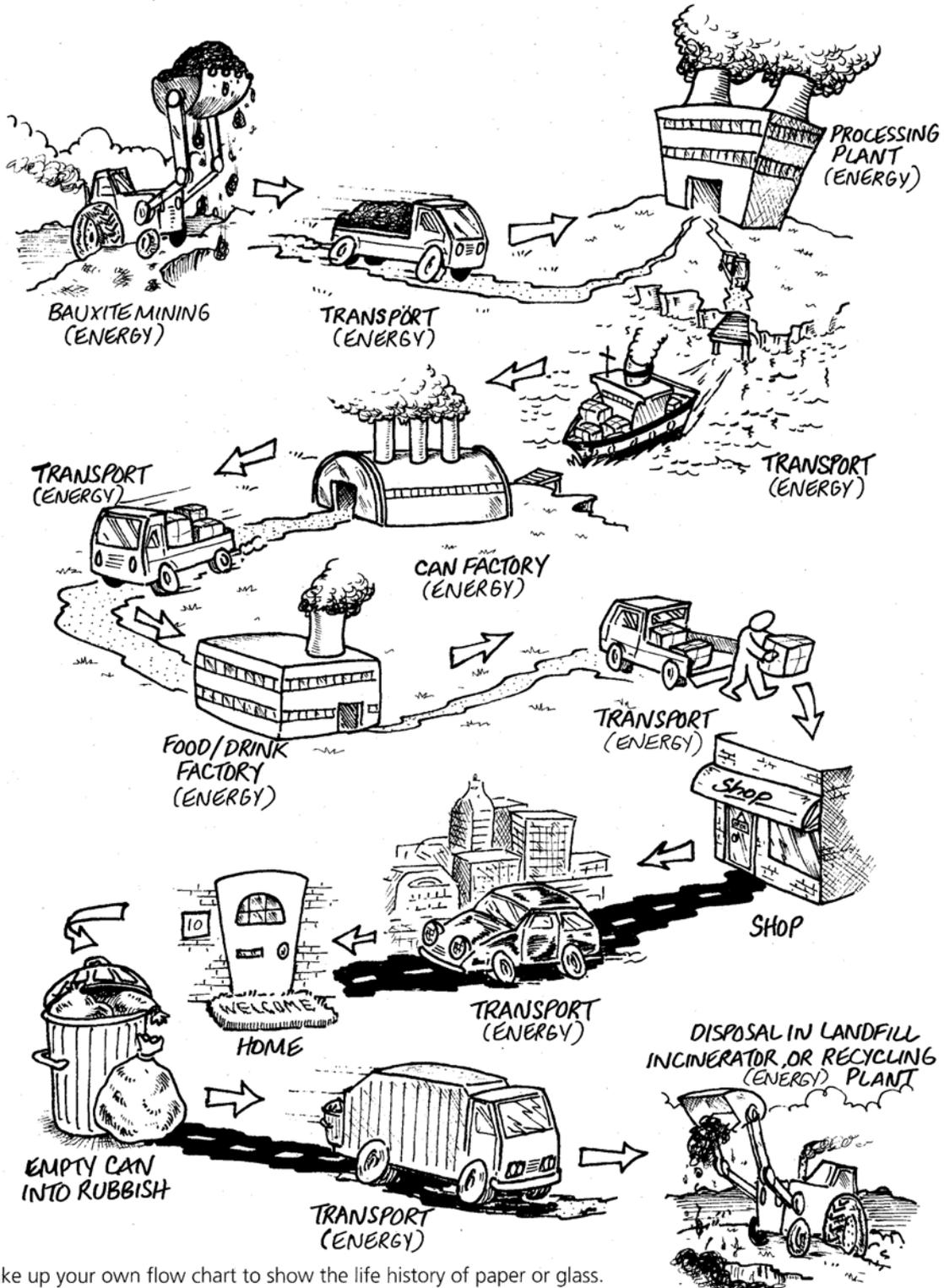
They should then cut out and sequence their pictures on a large piece of paper that has a picture of the box of cereals in the middle. They should stick down their pictures and add arrows showing how the different parts of the process connect.

Lastly, they should write on in red felt tip all the places where fossil fuel energy was used. Display all the flowcharts and, if time, ask the groups to explain theirs to the rest of the class.



WORKSHEET 7

LIFE HISTORY OF AN ALUMINIUM CAN



Make up your own flow chart to show the life history of paper or glass.

Source: The 'Aluminium Can' worksheet, written by Gillian Symons and Prue Poulton and appearing in 'Refuse, reuse, recycle' (1993), is reproduced with permission from Ecoactive (<http://www.ecoactive.org.uk/>)