



"We do not inherit  
the Earth from our  
ancestors; we borrow  
it from our children."

Native American  
Proverb

# Resource

## Recycling Badges: Higher/Lower Game

### You will need:

- Higher/Lower cards (see following pages)
- Printer
- Paper/Card (old cereal boxes will do)
- Laminator (optional)

### To Make Your Cards:

1. Print the higher/lower card templates on to plain paper.
2. Cards go back to back with the corresponding length of time. Either laminate the 2 sheets together (so they can be reused), or glue back to back, reinforcing with card if necessary.

### Instructions:

All ages should discuss what biodegrading is. Biodegrading is when an object is eaten away (decomposed) by bacteria and other living organisms. The length of time shown is based up the time taken to degrade in landfill. Many items take longer to degrade if they are not given the correct conditions and if items end up in the ocean, the rate of decomposition can be extended indefinitely.

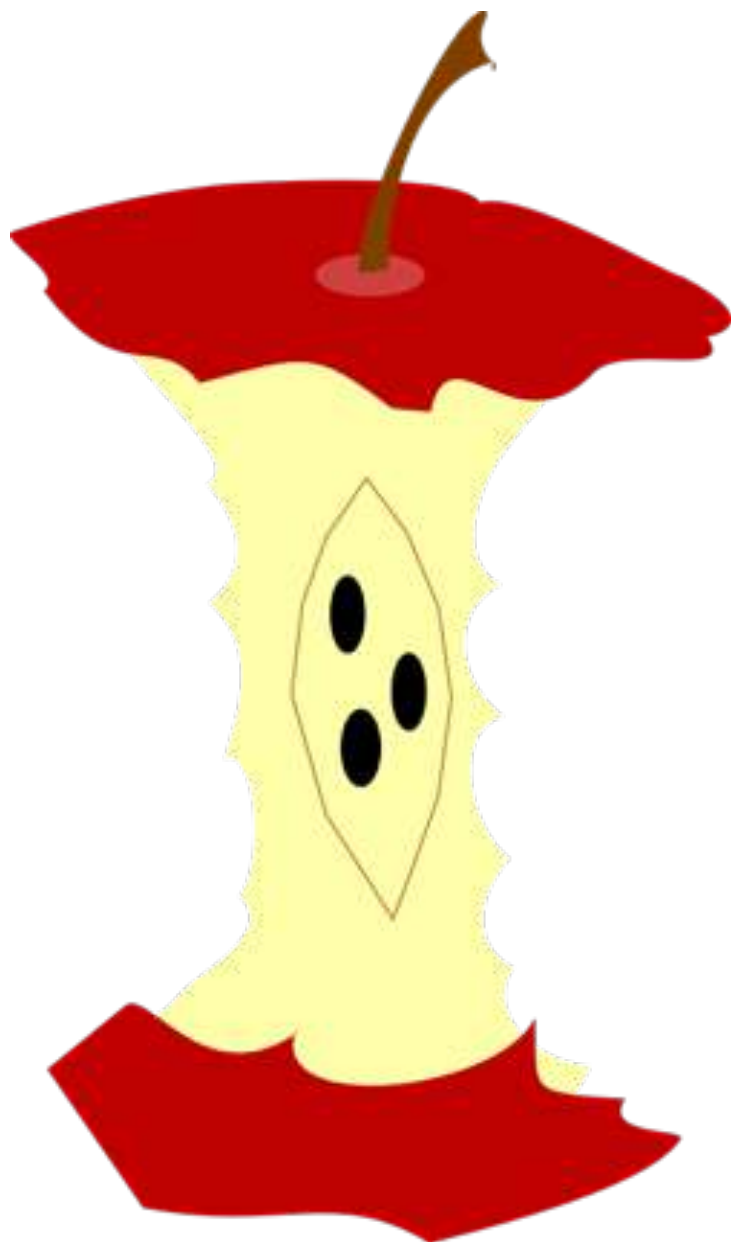
- Line up all the higher/lower cards with the 'blank' sides facing your young people. The apple core card should be placed first, then in any order.
- Turn over the apple core card to reveal the length of time it would take to biodegrade and explain that this would take 2 months to degrade in landfill.
- Ask young people whether they think the next item will take a longer (higher) or shorter (lower) time to biodegrade.
- Continue until players get the wrong answer. Discuss whether times were longer than expected or not. How can we reduce our waste?

**Special thanks to Mary and Teresa (Sisters Against Plastic) for sharing this resource.**

# Apple Core



# Apple Core



2 months

# Balloons



# Balloons



4 years

# Plastic bag

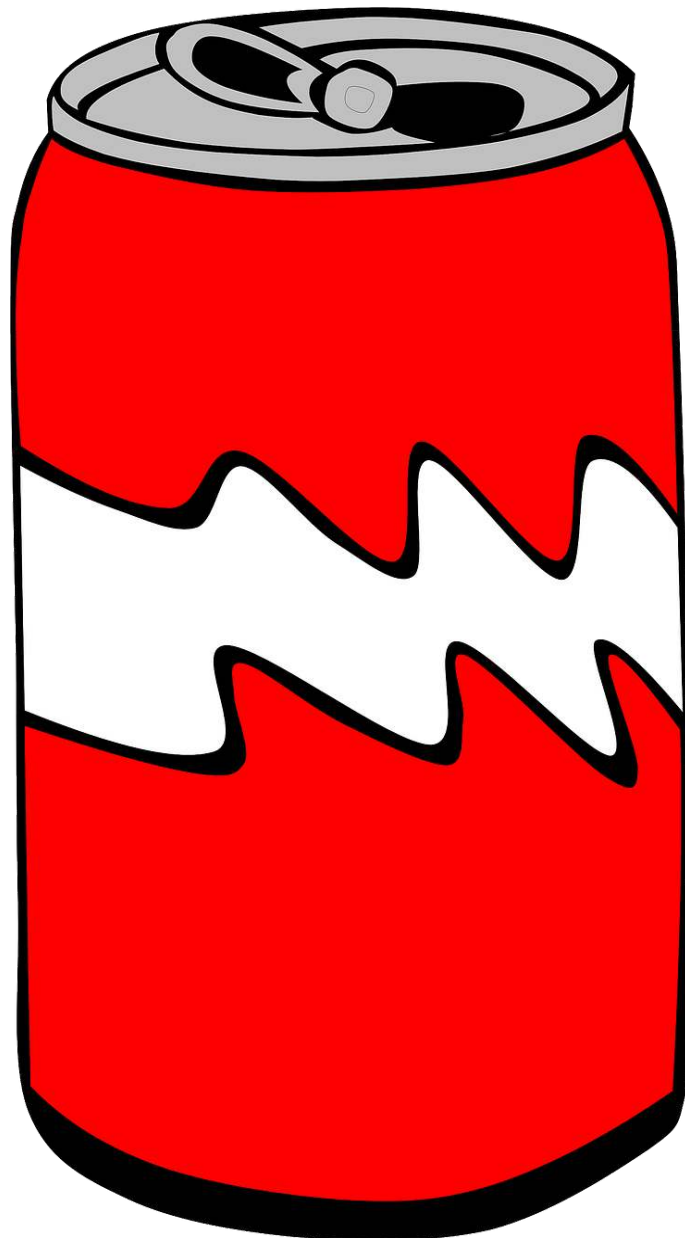


# Plastic bag



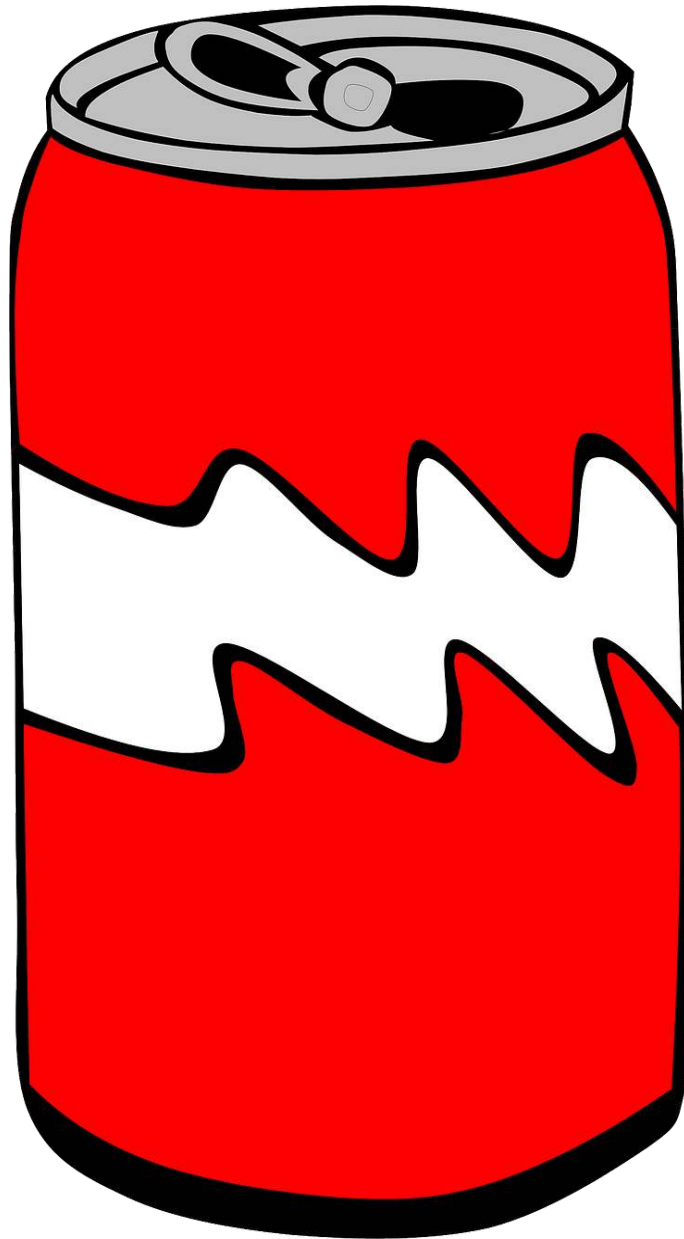
1000 years

# Drinks Can



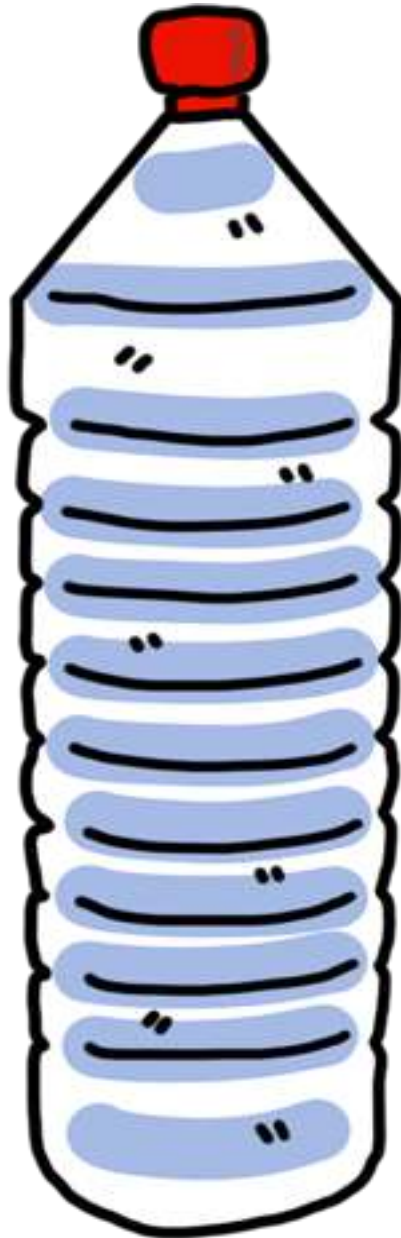


# Drinks Can

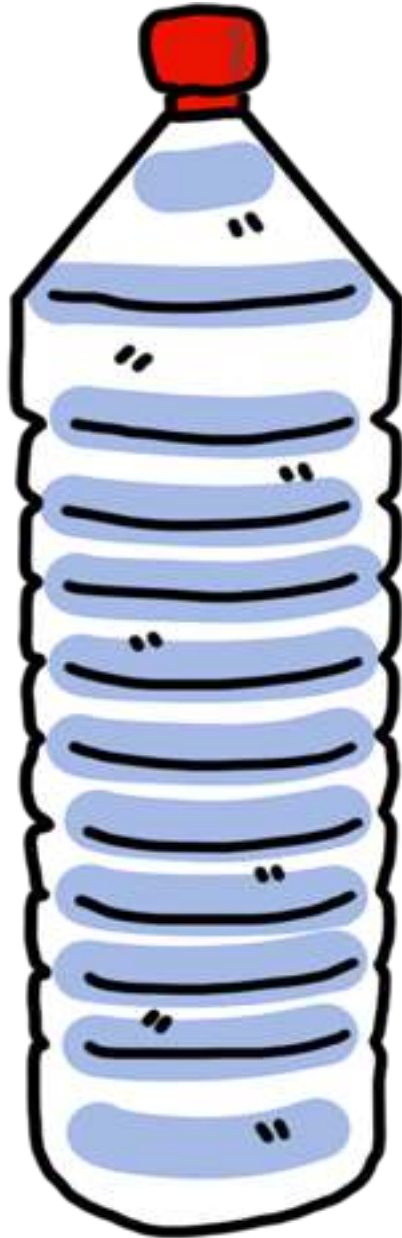


200 years

# Plastic Bottle



# Plastic Bottle



450 years

# Styrofoam Cup



# Styrofoam Cup



50 years

# Crisp Packet

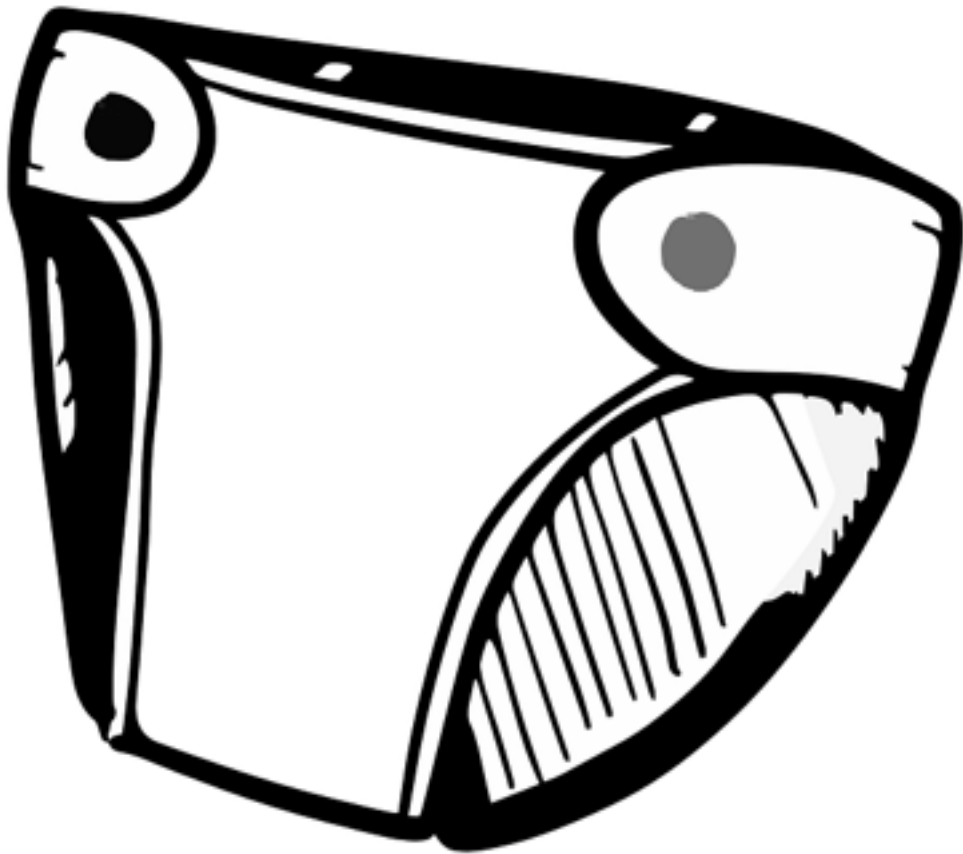


# Crisp Packet



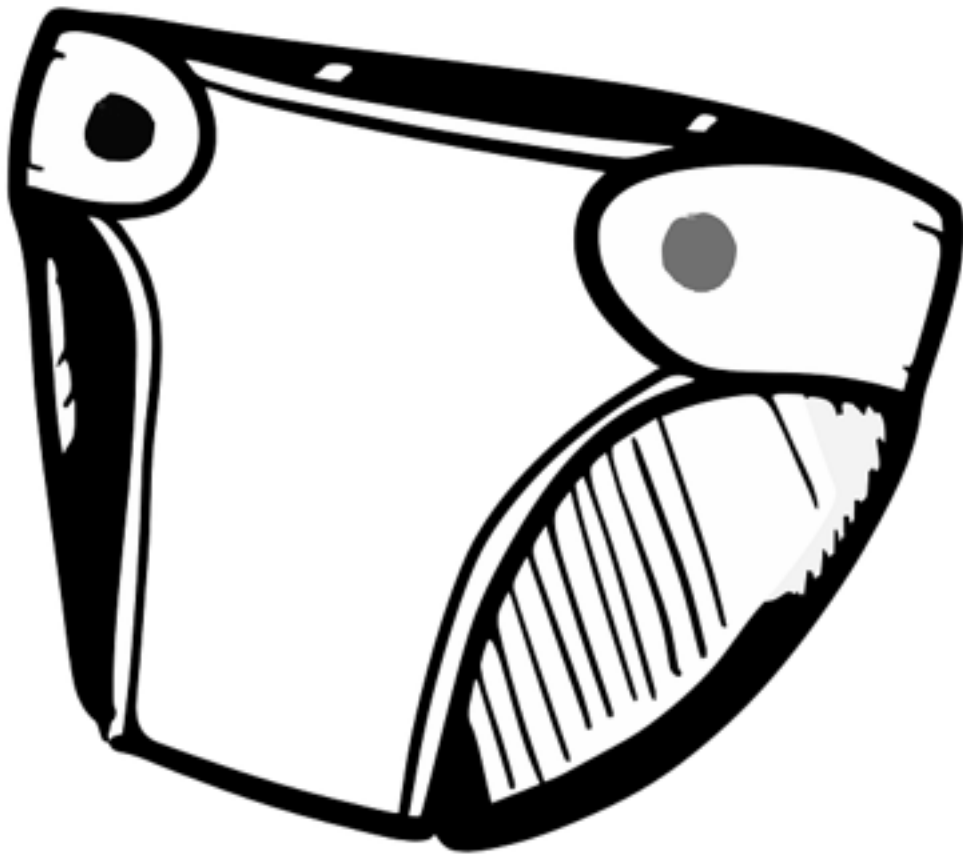
80 years

# Nappy



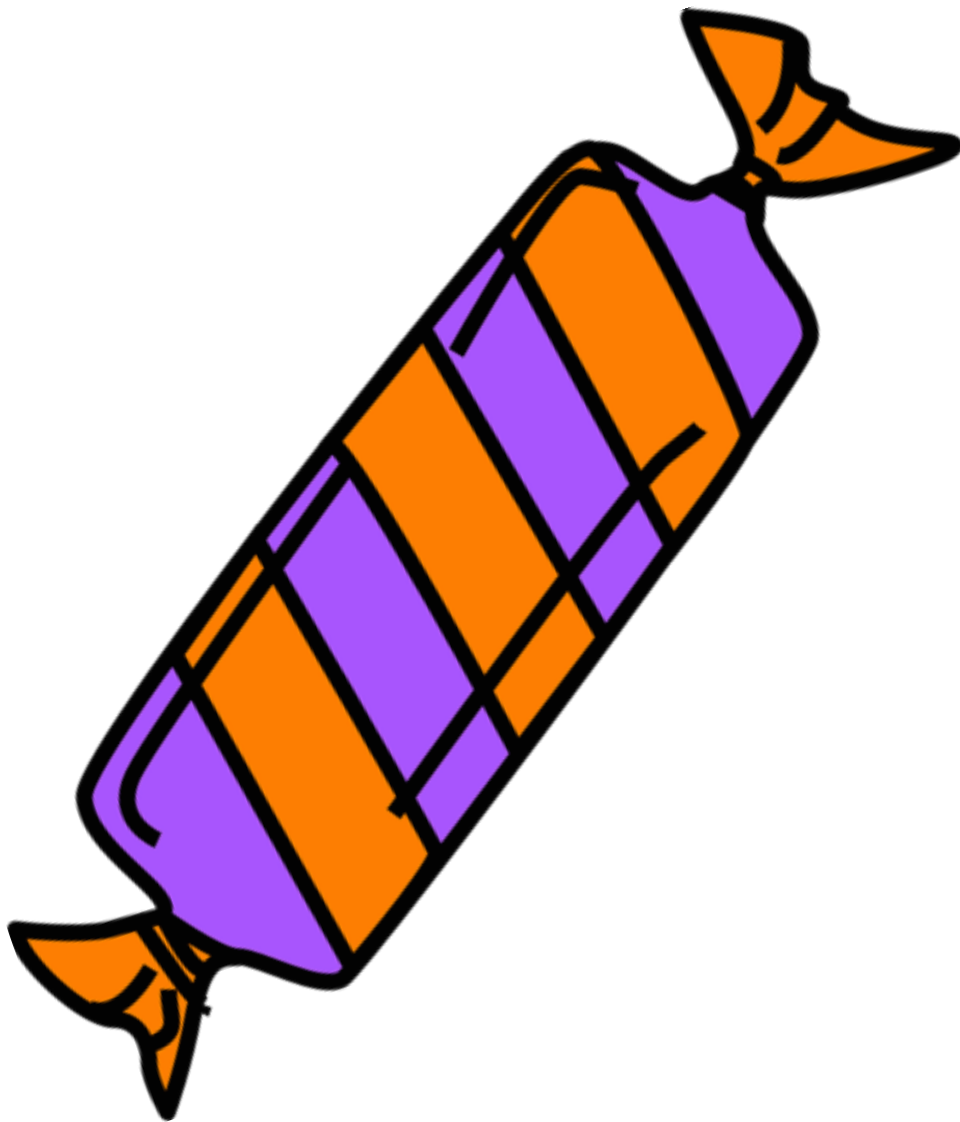


# Nappy

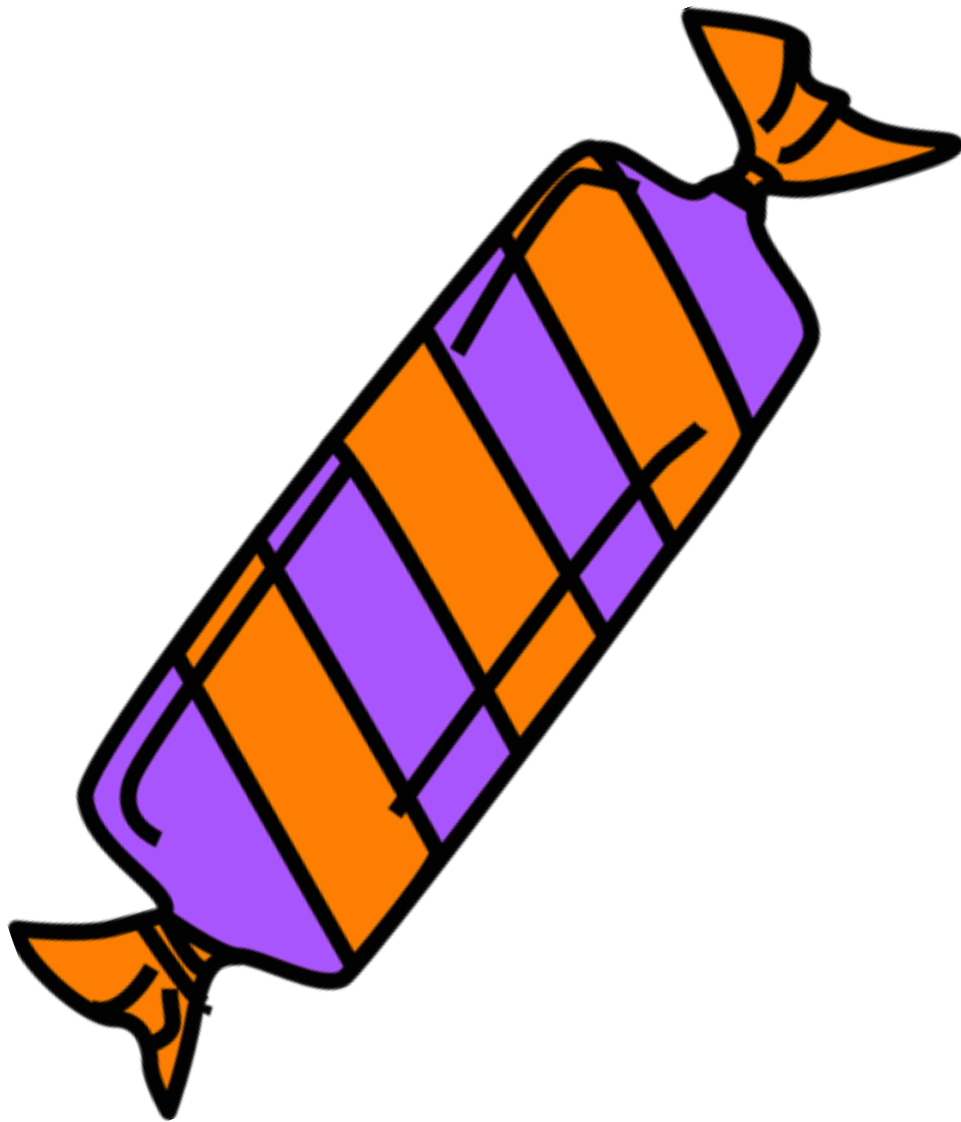


## 450 years

# Sweet Wrapper



# Sweet Wrapper



80 years

# Battery

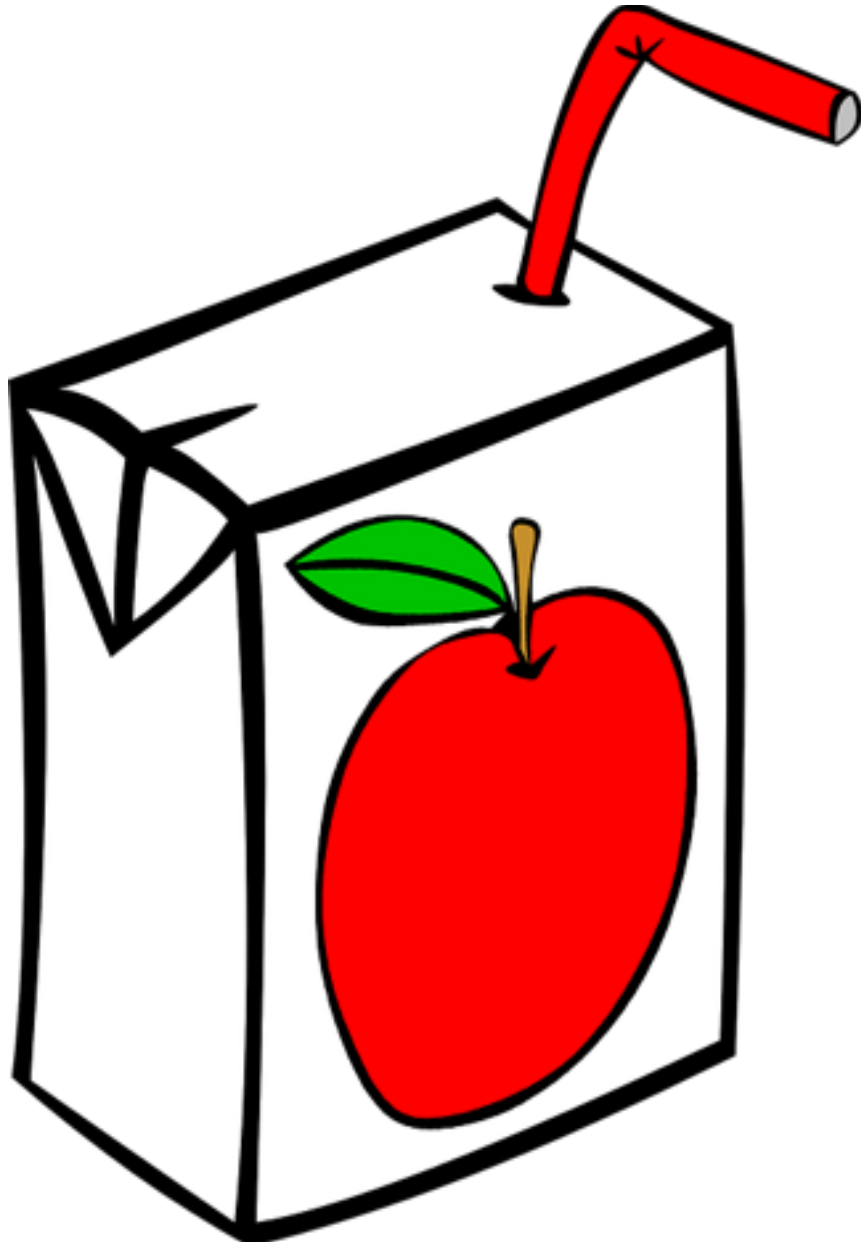


# Battery

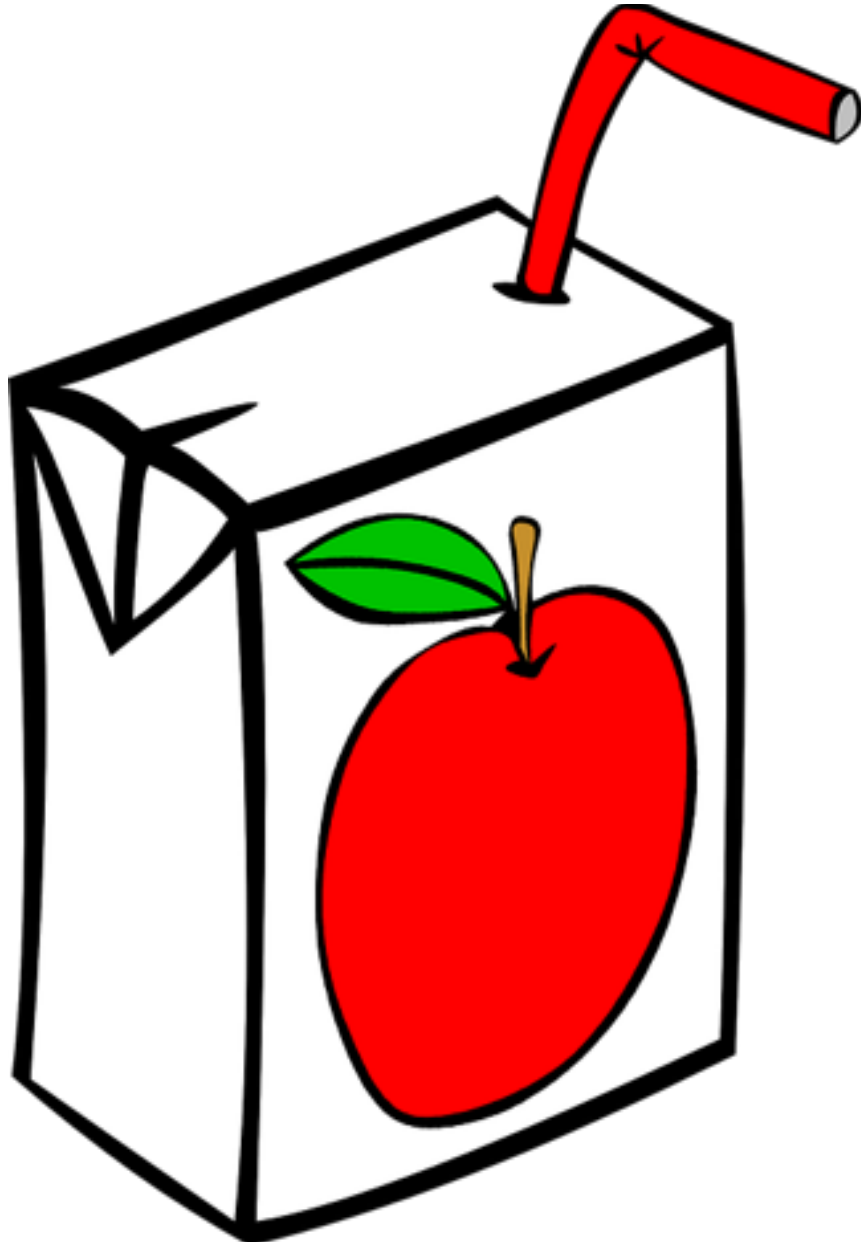


100 years

# Juice Carton



# Juice Carton



5 years

# Glass Bottle





# Glass Bottle



1 Million Years

# Newspaper

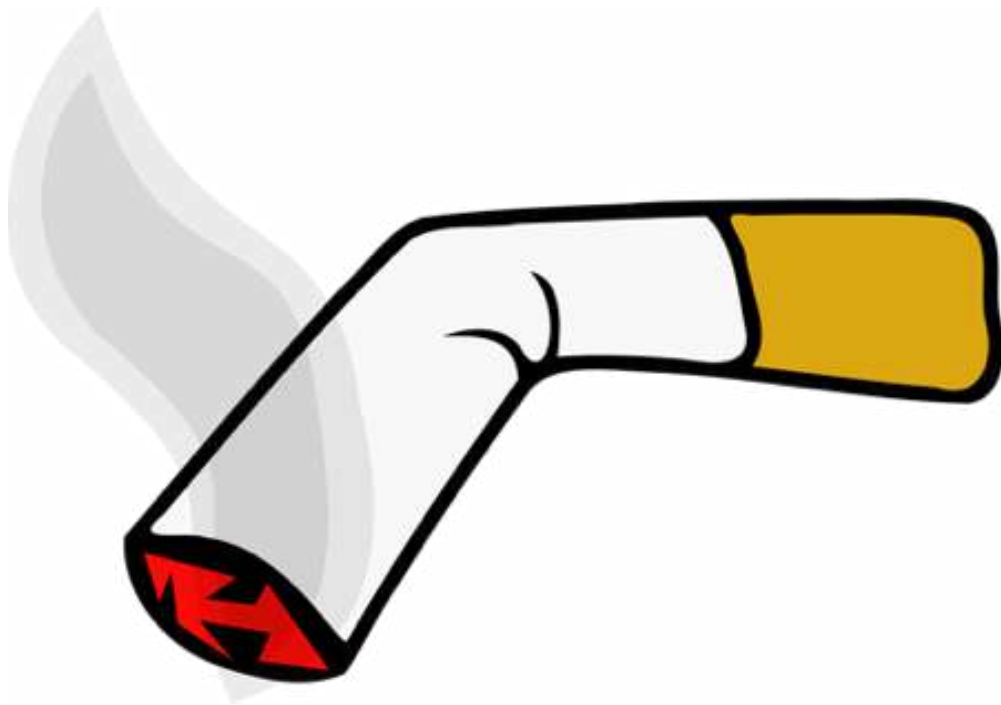


# Newspaper

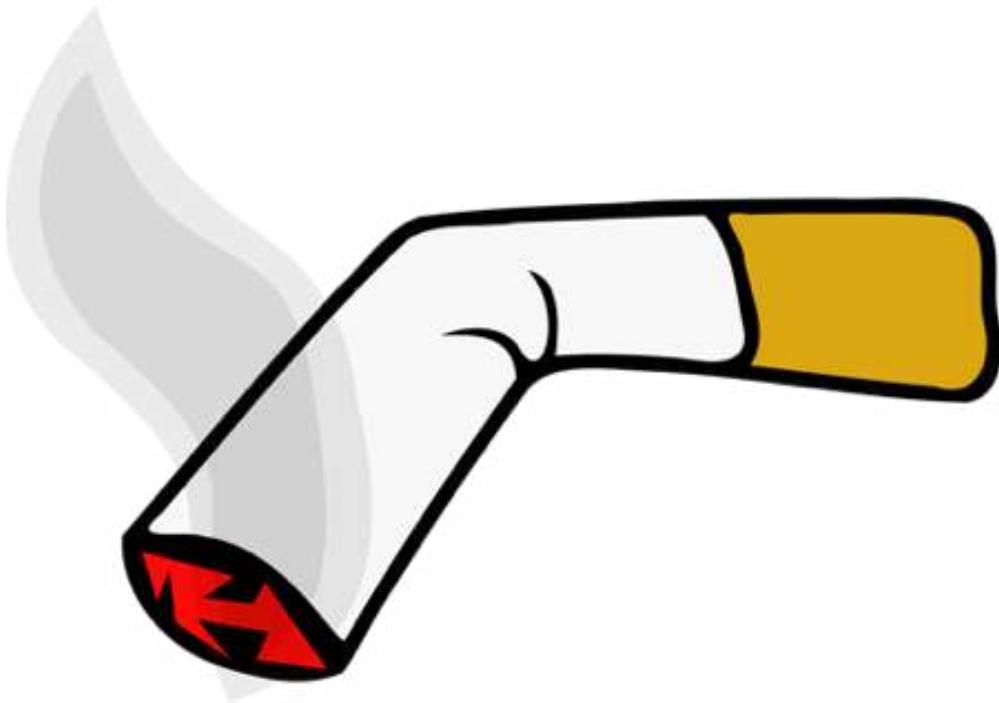


6 weeks

# Cigarette Butt



# Cigarette Butt



12 years

# Straw



# Straw



# 200 years