Chapter 12: Taking Charge of Waste

CONTENTS — 12 exercises · 22 questions

12.1	National Cleanliness Day — Opening Questions	4 Q
12.2	Activity 1 — How Activities Create Waste	1 Q
12.3	Activity 2 — Observe Your Surroundings	3 Q
12.4	Activity 3 — Reduce	1 Q
12.5	Activity 4 — Reuse	1 Q
12.6	Activity 5 — Create a Gift from Waste	1 Q
12.7	Activity 6 — Separate Your Waste	1 Q
12.8	Keeping Our Surroundings Clean	3 Q
12.9	Let Us Reflect — A. Discuss	2 Q
12.10	Let Us Reflect — B. Write	2 Q
12.11	Let Us Reflect — C. Draw	1 Q
12.12	Let Us Reflect — E. Think, Reflect and Share	2 Q

12.1 National Cleanliness Day — Opening Questions

Q1 What are the children and the teacher doing in the picture?

The children and their teacher are in a park on National Cleanliness Day (30 January). They are sweeping, picking up litter from the grass, and putting the waste into bags and dustbins to clean the park.

Q2 Why are they cleaning the park?

They are cleaning the park to keep it neat and free from garbage. A clean park is safe and pleasant for everyone to use.

Q3 Have you ever seen piles of waste lying around your home or school?

Sample answer: Yes, I have sometimes seen waste near the school gate or on the roadside. It looks dirty and smells bad.

Q4 Have you ever thought about how this waste is created?

Sample answer: Yes, waste is created when we throw away food peels, wrappers, old paper, bottles, and other things we no longer need.

12.2 Activity 1 — How Activities Create Waste

Q1 Recall different activities that you and your elders do during the day. How do these activities create waste? Finally, what do we do with the waste?

Sample answer: Cooking creates vegetable peels and food scraps. Eating creates food wrappers and empty packets. Shopping brings plastic bags. We usually throw waste in the dustbin, and the garbage collector takes it away.

12.3 Activity 2 — Observe Your Surroundings

Q1 How clean are the surroundings of your school?

Sample answer: The area inside my school is fairly clean because we have dustbins and the sweepers clean regularly. The area just outside the gate sometimes has wrappers on the ground.

Q2 Do you find waste lying in or outside your classrooms or on the school grounds?

Sample answer: We sometimes find paper scraps and sweet wrappers on the school grounds after lunch. Inside the classroom, most children use the dustbin.

Q3 Draw or paste a picture of a locality. Identify the places where there is garbage or wastewater or smoke by circling them in red. Try to find out how the waste gets there.

Sample answer: Waste usually gets to roadsides because people throw it out of vehicles or leave it after eating. Wastewater flows from drains when they are not properly covered.

12.4 Activity 3 — Reduce

Q1 How can you help in reducing waste?

I can carry a cloth bag when shopping instead of using a plastic bag. I can buy only what I need, avoid packaged snacks, and use both sides of paper before throwing it away.

12.5 Activity 4 — Reuse

Q1 How can you REUSE things to reduce waste?

I can reuse the blank side of old paper for rough work. I can refill a steel water bottle instead of buying a new plastic one. Old newspapers can be used to wrap gifts or make paper bags.

12.6 Activity 5 — Create a Gift from Waste

Q1 Create an item using waste material that you can give as a gift to someone. Who will you give it to and why?

Sample answer: I will make a pencil holder from an old cardboard roll and decorate it with newspaper. I will give it to the school sweeper to thank them for keeping our school clean.

12.7 Activity 6 — Separate Your Waste

Q1 Two dustbins are drawn below. Write the names of the waste material which will go into each of them. (Items: Plastic bottles, leaves, onion peels, light bulbs, rotten fruit, paper, eggshells, used plastic milk packets, cloth.)

Green dustbin (wet/organic — rots easily): leaves, onion peels, rotten fruit, eggshells. Blue dustbin (dry/recyclable — metal, glass, plastic, paper): plastic bottles, light bulbs, paper, used plastic milk packets, cloth.

12.8 Keeping Our Surroundings Clean

Q1 List the things that you can do to keep your home and classroom clean.

Sample answer: I can keep my room tidy by putting things back in their place. I can use the dustbin for waste, sweep the floor when needed, and remind others not to litter.

Q2 Make a list of tools you have seen being used in your school or neighbourhood for cleaning.

Sample answer: Broom, mop, dustpan, bucket, scrubbing brush, and a garbage cart are tools used for cleaning at school and in the neighbourhood.

Q3 Have you ever observed the tools that are used in your home for cleaning? Make a list of these tools.

Sample answer: At home we use a broom, mop, scrubbing brush, dustpan, vacuum cleaner, and sponge for cleaning different surfaces.

12.9 Let Us Reflect — A. Discuss

Q1 How is waste created?

Waste is created from our daily activities. We throw away vegetable peels, food wrappers, old clothes, empty bottles, paper, plastic bags, and many other items that we no longer use.

Q2 How can we manage waste?

We can manage waste by following three steps: Reduce (create less waste), Reuse (use things again instead of throwing), and Recycle (separate dry waste for recycling and wet waste for composting).

12.10 Let Us Reflect — B. Write

Q1 To avoid use of plastic bags and bottles, look at your home and school closely. List all the items of plastic material and write how these could be replaced by other safe materials.

Sample answer: Plastic bags → cloth bags or jute bags. Plastic water bottles → steel or copper bottles. Plastic lunch boxes → stainless steel boxes. Plastic cups → clay cups or paper cups. Plastic straws → bamboo or steel straws.

Q2 Name three things in your school and home that you would put in the green dustbin and three things that you would put in the blue dustbin.

Green dustbin: fruit peels, leftover food, dried leaves. Blue dustbin: old newspapers, empty plastic bottles, broken glass (wrapped safely).

12.11 Let Us Reflect — C. Draw

Q1 Make a poster to show a village or town that is managing its waste well. Give your poster a suitable title.

Draw a village with clean roads, green trees, and coloured dustbins (green and blue) placed along the street. Show people putting waste into the correct dustbin and a compost pit near a garden. Write a title such as: 'Our Clean Village — Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!'

12.12 Let Us Reflect — E. Think, Reflect and Share

Q1 Imagine you are having a birthday party at your home. What are some of the ways in which you can try to have a zero-waste birthday party?

Sample answer: I can use plates and cups made of leaves or paper instead of plastic. I can avoid balloons and use flower decorations. Gifts can be wrapped in old newspaper. I can serve homemade food to reduce packaging waste.

Q2 Have you seen waste in nature? What do you think happens to the waste of animals, dried leaves and so on in a forest?

In a forest, animal droppings, dead leaves, and fallen branches slowly break down and mix with the soil. Tiny organisms like worms and bacteria decompose this waste and turn it into nutrients that help new plants grow.