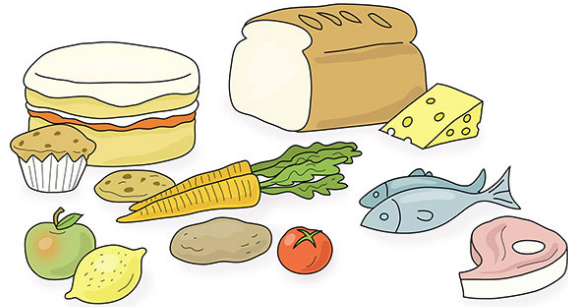


Are You Wasting Good Food? by Kate Ruttle

Households in the UK are currently throwing away around 8 million tonnes of edible food each year. This massive mountain of food is thrown away in black bags and wheelie bins.

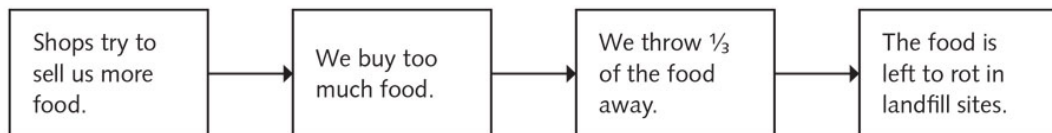
In your house, do you throw away:

- half loaves of bread, rolls and cakes that are not entirely fresh?
- bags of salad and salad vegetables that are looking a bit limp and wrinkled?
- potatoes and carrots that are beginning to sprout and wrinkle?
- bananas and other fruit whose skin is beginning to change colour?
- yoghurts, milk and fruit drinks that are a day over their "sell-by" date?
- uneaten vegetables?



Look at your plate when you eat next, or think about your lunch box; how much food are you wasting because you are being a picky eater? And how much are you wasting because there was more food than you wanted to eat?

In addition to throwing away food, we are also wasting money. Most families living in the UK throw away more than £700-worth of food and drink that could have been eaten every year. What else could your family have spent that money on? £700 would buy you a holiday, days out to theme parks, new computers, lots of computer games, new bikes ... your imagination can suggest other ideas. And remember: that's £700 every year.



The food we throw away in our bins each year would fill 8,400 Olympic-sized swimming pools. However, instead of being in swimming pools, it ends up in huge holes in the ground called "landfill sites", which are filled up with our rubbish, including food waste, plastic bags and other waste. You are growing up in a land that is full of holes of decaying food. Where will your rubbish go when you are older if all the land is dug up and filled with today's rubbish?

Reducing food waste is a shared problem and we need to find a shared solution. What do you think you can do about it?

Name:	Class:	Date:
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1 “8 million tonnes of edible food”

Which word or phrase is closest in meaning to the word “edible”?

Choose **one**.

poisonous

out of date

cooked

eatable

2 Give **two** examples from the text of edible food that is thrown away.

3 Why did the writer use a flow chart in this text?

4 Why do you think the writer tells you that families are wasting money?

5 Choose the statement that is the best summary of ideas from the last three paragraphs.

The weather affects how well a crop grows.

We do not like to buy fruit and vegetables with blemishes.

If we buy less-than-perfect crops, the farmers will not waste the food.

We need to find ways of reducing the amount of food we waste.

6 This text ends with a question. What does the writer think is the answer? Use **two** ideas from the text in your answer.

2a

1 mark

2b

1 mark

2f

1 mark

2f

1 mark

2c

1 mark

2d

2 marks