



Disclaimer

We hope you find the information on our website and resource useful. The description of any food or drink preparation or consumption activity contained within this resource is intended as a general guide only. It may not fit your specific situation. You should not rely on the resource to be right for your situation. It is your responsibility to decide whether to carry out the activity at all and, if you do, to ensure that the activity is safe for those participating. You are responsible for carrying out proper risk assessments on the activities and for providing appropriate supervision. We are not responsible for the health and safety of your group or environment so, insofar as it is possible under the law, we cannot accept liability for any loss suffered by anyone undertaking the activity or activities referred to or described in this resource. It is also your responsibility to ensure that those participating in the activity are able to do so and that you or the organisation you are organising it for has the relevant insurance to carry out the activity. It is also your responsibility to note that ingredients or materials used might cause allergic reactions or health problems and to ensure that you are fully aware of the allergies and health conditions of those taking part. If you are unsure, always speak to a suitably qualified health professional.

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The Messy Magpie Sensory Story

To be used alongside the teaching of [The Messy Magpie eBook](#).



Story	Activity	Resources
<p><i>Before beginning the story.</i></p>	<p>Take the children to do some bird spotting. Can they find a magpie? You could use this Spring Birds Scavenger Hunt Activity to support you.</p> <p>Look closely at pictures of magpies and get children to create their own pictures of magpies in an art activity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binoculars (if available) • Spring Birds Scavenger Hunt Activity • Art materials, such as feathers, tissue paper, chalk • Magpie Colouring Sheet
<p>It's often been noted as years have gone by that magpies collect all the things that they spy.</p> <p>They love all things colourful, shiny and bold, no matter how tiny, no matter how old.</p> <p>Morris the Magpie's the same, it would seem, as he loves to pick up any objects that gleam.</p> <p>He takes them all home to his nest in a tree to make it look special for others to see.</p>	<p>Encourage the children to search through the recycled materials and identify which ones a magpie might like (e.g. items that are colourful, shiny and bold.)</p> <p>Define what these words mean.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of recycled materials

<p>Now one day, young Morris was struck by surprise when a gift was thrown down right in front of his eyes.</p> <p>As it flew from a car, Morris said, "Could it be that this human has given a present to me?"</p> <p>He swooped down to pick up the beautiful gift, which was hard to manoeuvre and heavy to lift.</p> <p>He carried it home, though it took him all day, then he cleaned up his present to put on display.</p>	<p>Get children to look through the recycled materials to find something that looks similar to the 'gift' in the story.</p> <p>Support the students with role playing this part of the story.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Messy Magpie Role-Play Masks • A range of recycled materials
<p>He wanted to decorate all that he could so the next day, he went to the edge of the wood.</p> <p>He flew to the place where the gift had been dropped, where he saw that a family of humans had stopped.</p> <p>He hopped down to search for his gift on the floor but he noticed that this time they'd left many more.</p> <p>Shimmering treasures amongst all the green, these gifts were the finest that Morris had seen.</p>	<p>Lay the fabric on the floor as a picnic blanket.</p> <p>Then, draw or make 'rubbish' to put on the blanket to bring the scene to life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fabric to act as a picnic blanket • Paper • Colouring pencils



Each day, he returned and he couldn't believe all the wonderful gifts that were left to retrieve.

His tree was soon bursting, with no space for more, so he started to spread them all out on the floor.

The more of these gifts that his human friends threw, the more his collection expanded...

...and grew!

Then one day, as Morris was sat in his tree, admiring the beauty of all he could see, he noticed that things were now changing below; that the plants were all dying and struggling to grow.

The grass was not green like it had been before.

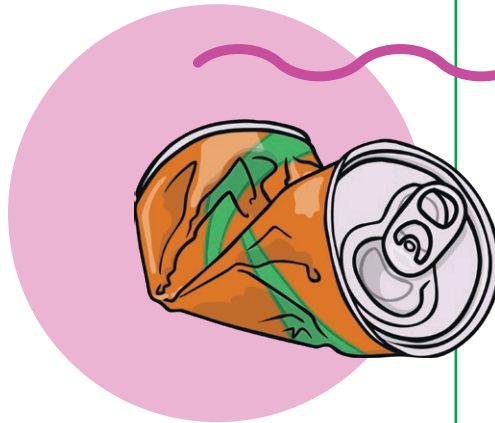
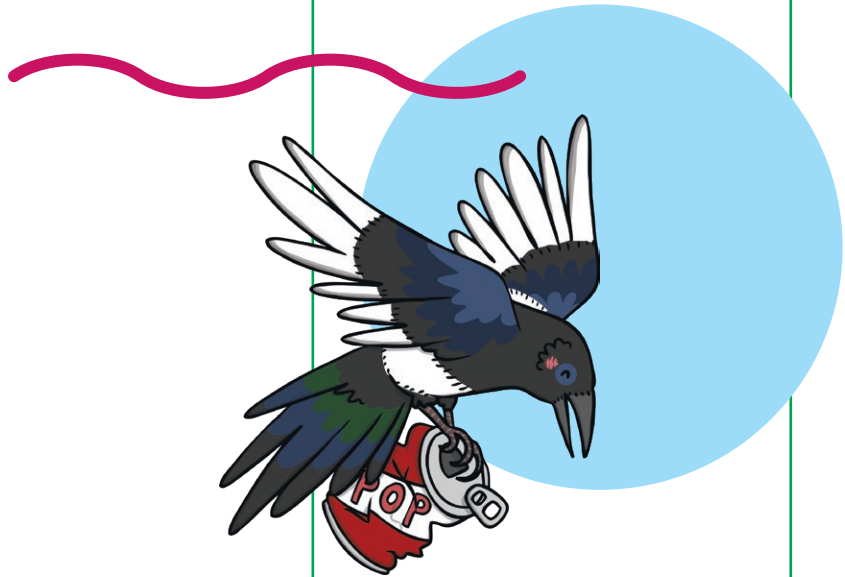
The flowers were wilting, not bright anymore.

His animal friends watched in fear and distress as their homes and their food were soon lost to the mess.

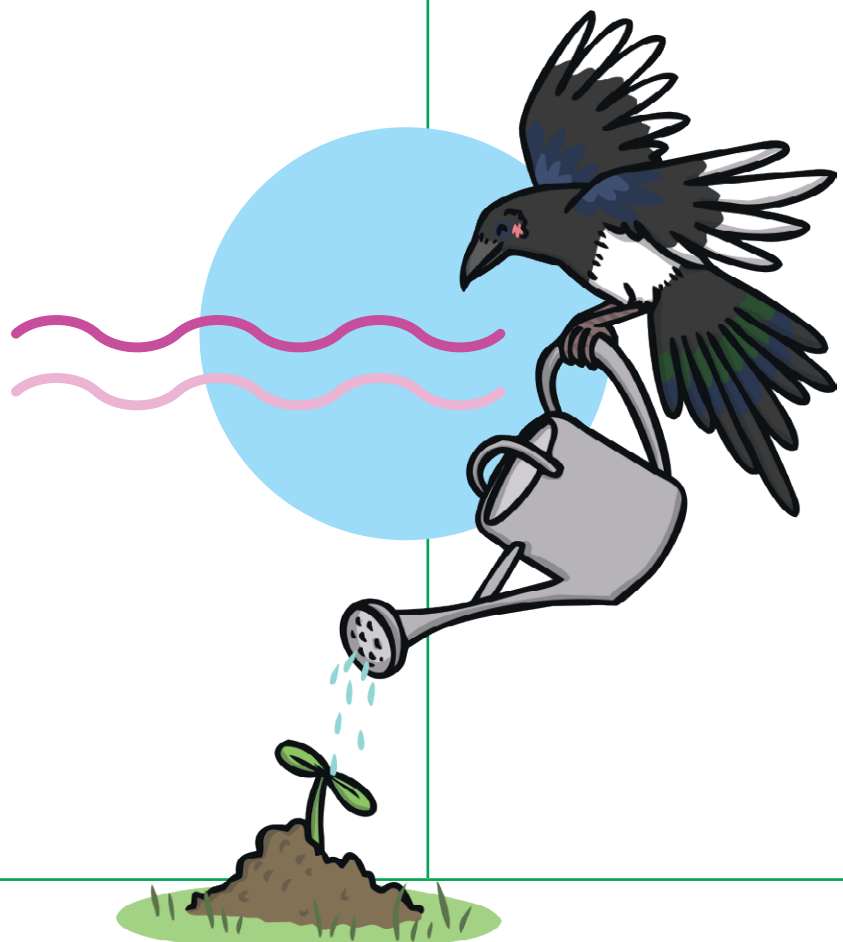
He turned to the stream, which no longer looked blue but instead, had a horrible muddy-like hue.

The water was flowing more slowly that day as the big piles of rubbish were blocking its way.

"Oh no!" Morris cried, as he gasped with alarm, "I never intended to cause all this harm. The forest is damaged; the humans weren't kind. All these gifts were just rubbish that got left behind."



<p>The pride Morris felt for his lovely display was soon turning to sadness, regret and dismay.</p> <p>He adored the collection he'd lovingly built but his joy had now turned to a feeling of guilt.</p> <p>He vowed to himself he would put it all right so he leapt off his branch and then quickly took flight.</p> <p>He soared high and low looking out for a clue that would show him the safest and best thing to do.</p>	<p>Cover the classroom with recycling and encourage the children to move around, soaring like a magpie.</p> <p>What are the problems as they do this? Can they avoid the rubbish easily? How might the animals in the story be feeling, then?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of recycled materials
<p>He noticed a truck driving past on the road which was filled with a very familiar load.</p> <p>He followed the truck to see where it would go, feeling hopeful he'd find what he needed to know.</p> <p>Morris arrived at a bustling place, which had giant containers and masses of space.</p> <p>Each bin had a sign marking what it was for and the rubbish piled up, with each car adding more.</p> <p>"But where does it go?" whispered Morris, confused. To his shock, a voice said, "It gets crushed and reused."</p> <p>A seagull appeared and then said with a sigh, "It's amazing what humans can do when they try."</p> <p>"That's it!" Morris said and he knew what to do. "If I bring it all here, they can make something new.</p> <p>I might need some help but I must make amends." So he called on a couple of very good friends.</p>	<p>Use The Messy Magpie Recycling Symbol Detectives Worksheet to learn about the symbols on packaging that indicate whether an item can be recycled.</p> <p>Sort through the rubbish, finding the pieces that can be recycled.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Messy Magpie Recycling Symbol Detectives Worksheet • A range of recycled materials



<p>They fetched and they carried for most of the night and they worked as a team till they'd put it all right.</p> <p>When the rubbish was gone, Morris looked all around, at the stream and the flowers, the trees and the ground.</p>	<p>Take the students on a litter pick of the school grounds or local area.</p> <p>Take photographs of the area before and after to help students see the positive impact they have made.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk assessment for litter pick activity • Bin liners (decomposable if possible) • Gloves • Litter pickers
<p>He desperately hoped that he'd made enough room for the beauty of nature to once again bloom.</p> <p>He planted... and watered... and nurtured away...</p> <p>Till the forest was thriving and growing each day.</p> <p>Then Morris knew nothing would make his heart sing like the colourful beauty that nature could bring.</p> <p>He no longer needed the shiniest nest and he realised that having a green home was best.</p>	<p>Support the children to plant seeds and nurture them. Perhaps a school garden could be set up.</p> <p>Observe and watch the growth of the plants over time.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gardening tools • Soil • Pots • Seeds • Watering can
<p><i>After reading the story.</i></p>	<p>Your school could set up their own eco-team or eco-club to support the school with recycling, rubbish collection and other ecological issues.</p>	

