

Types of Waste

Chapter 12: Taking Charge of Waste · Topic 1

Key Concept

Biodegradable waste, like fruit peels, vegetable scraps, and paper, breaks down naturally over time through the action of bacteria and other organisms.

Non-biodegradable waste, like plastic, glass, and metal, takes a very long time to break down, sometimes hundreds of years, and can harm the environment if not managed properly.

Separating waste into biodegradable and non-biodegradable helps in proper waste management, like composting biodegradable waste and recycling non-biodegradable waste.

Reducing the amount of waste we produce, especially non-biodegradable waste like plastic, helps protect our environment for the future.

Quick Revision Notes

- Biodegradable waste breaks down naturally, like fruit peels.
- Non-biodegradable waste doesn't break down easily, like plastic.
- Non-biodegradable waste can take hundreds of years to break down.
- Separating waste helps proper waste management.
- Biodegradable waste can be composted.
- Non-biodegradable waste can be recycled.
- Reducing waste protects the environment.
- Plastic is a common non-biodegradable waste.

Practice Questions

- 1 Sort five items into biodegradable and non-biodegradable.
- 2 Start a small compost or discuss how composting works.
- 3 Find plastic items at home and discuss recycling them.
- 4 Discuss why reducing plastic waste is important.
- 5 Make a poster about waste separation.
- 6 Explain the difference between biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste.