



ZERO WASTE CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY SHEETS

**Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall**
Fingal County
Council





HOW TO HAVE A GREEN CHRISTMAS IN IRELAND!

CHRISTMAS IS A TIME OF JOY, TWINKLING LIGHTS, AND PRESENTS, BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT IT CAN ALSO CREATE A LOT OF EXTRA WASTE? THIS CHRISTMAS, FAMILIES IN IRELAND ARE EXPECTED TO CREATE OVER 95,000 TONNES OF PACKAGING WASTE—THAT'S AS MUCH AS ABOUT 6,500 BIG CHRISTMAS TREES STACKED TOGETHER! BUT WE CAN HELP REDUCE THIS WASTE AND HAVE A JOLLY, ECO-FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS.

HERE ARE SOME EASY WAYS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY CAN HELP MAKE CHRISTMAS A BIT GREENER:

WRAP GIFTS WITH RECYCLABLE PAPER

EVERY CHRISTMAS, LOTS OF WRAPPING PAPER ENDS UP IN THE BIN, ESPECIALLY IF IT HAS GLITTER OR PLASTIC THAT CAN'T BE RECYCLED. TRY USING PLAIN BROWN PAPER OR NEWSPAPER FOR WRAPPING. YOU CAN MAKE IT LOOK FESTIVE BY DECORATING IT WITH DRAWINGS, STAMPS, OR EVEN ADDING A LITTLE SPRIG OF HOLLY FROM OUTSIDE.





CHOOSE A REAL OR RENTED TREE

DID YOU KNOW THAT REAL TREES ARE OFTEN BETTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT THAN FAKE ONES? FAKE TREES ARE MADE FROM PLASTIC THAT ISN'T RECYCLABLE. IN IRELAND, SOME PLACES LET YOU RENT A TREE IN A POT! YOU CAN USE IT FOR CHRISTMAS AND THEN RETURN IT TO BE REPLANTED, HELPING IT GROW FOR NEXT YEAR.

SAVE ON FOOD WASTE

AFTER CHRISTMAS, LOTS OF HOLIDAY FOOD CAN END UP IN THE BIN. IN IRELAND, FAMILIES THROW AWAY 25% MORE FOOD AT CHRISTMAS THAN AT OTHER TIMES OF THE YEAR. YOU CAN HELP BY SAVING LEFTOVERS AND MAKING TASTY SNACKS LIKE TURKEY SANDWICHES OR CRANBERRY MUFFINS THE NEXT DAY.

SHOP LOCAL FOR GIFTS

WHEN WE BUY PRESENTS FROM LOCAL SHOPS, IT HELPS THE ENVIRONMENT BECAUSE THOSE GIFTS OFTEN HAVE LESS PACKAGING AND TRAVEL A SHORTER DISTANCE. ABOUT 80% OF PEOPLE IN IRELAND SAY THEY WANT TO SHOP LOCALLY THIS CHRISTMAS, WHICH CAN HELP KEEP WASTE DOWN.



☀️ MAKE YOUR OWN DECORATIONS

PLASTIC DECORATIONS CAN'T ALWAYS BE RECYCLED, BUT YOU CAN MAKE YOUR OWN! USE PINECONES, DRIED ORANGE SLICES, OR EVEN MAKE PAPER SNOWFLAKES. THEY LOOK AMAZING, AND YOU CAN COMPOST MANY OF THEM WHEN CHRISTMAS IS OVER.

QUESTIONS



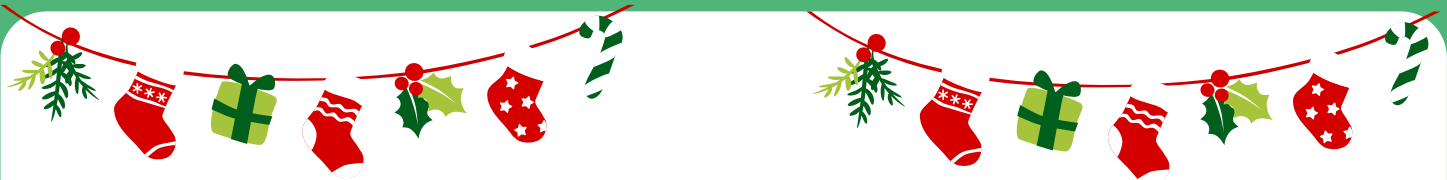
HOW MUCH PACKAGING WASTE IS EXPECTED TO BE CREATED IN IRELAND THIS CHRISTMAS?

WHAT TYPES OF WRAPPING PAPER CAN'T BE RECYCLED?

WHY IS IT HELPFUL TO SHOP LOCALLY FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS?

NAME ONE NATURAL DECORATION YOU COULD MAKE AT HOME.





UNTANGLE THE BAUBLES AND FIND OUT HOW TO RECYCLE RIGHT THIS CHRISTMAS

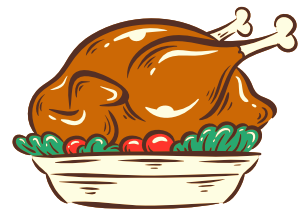
GLASS BOTTLES AND JARS



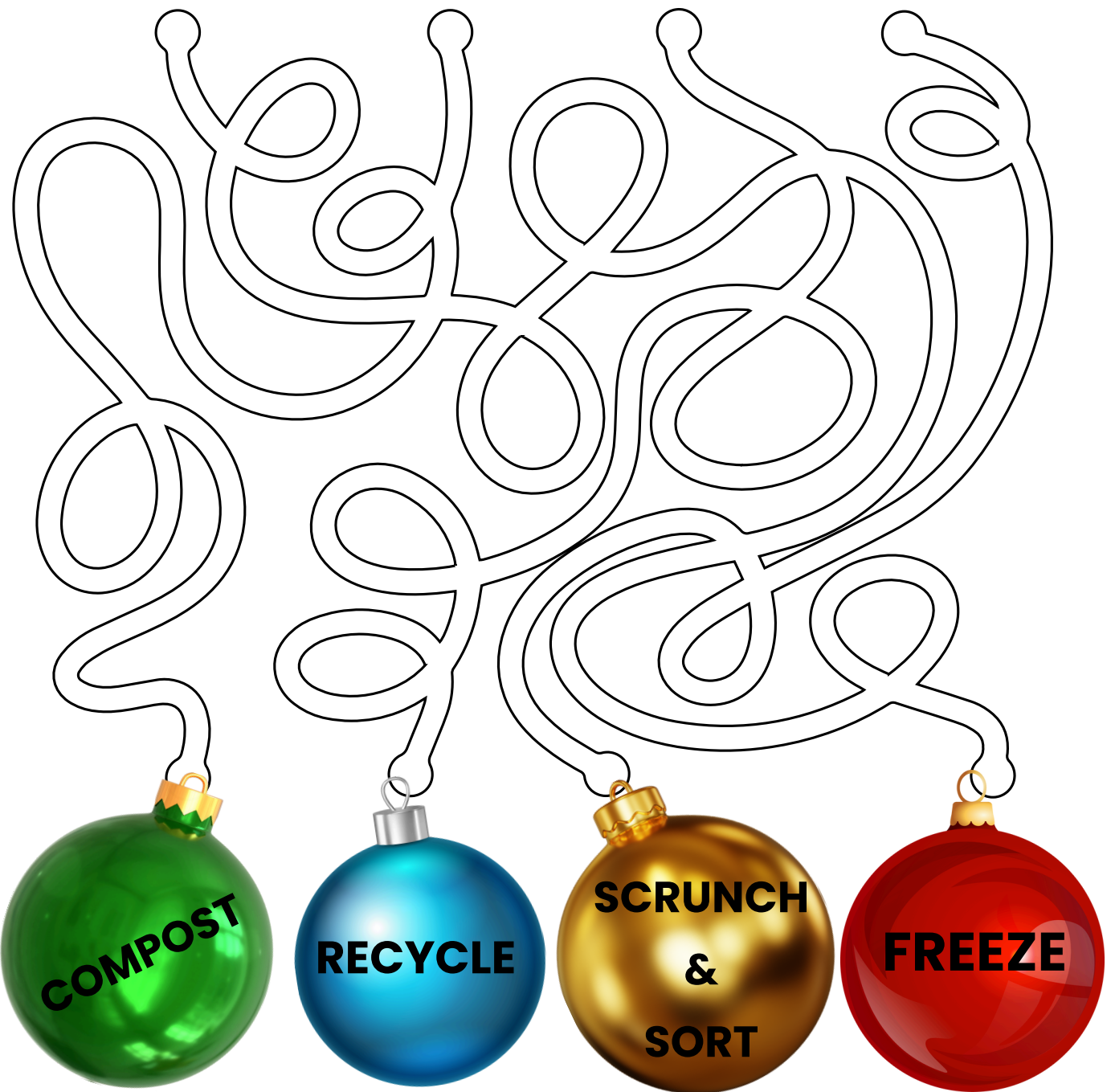
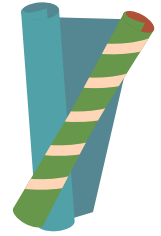
VEGETABLE PEELS



LEFTOVERS



WRAPPING PAPER





CHRISTMAS



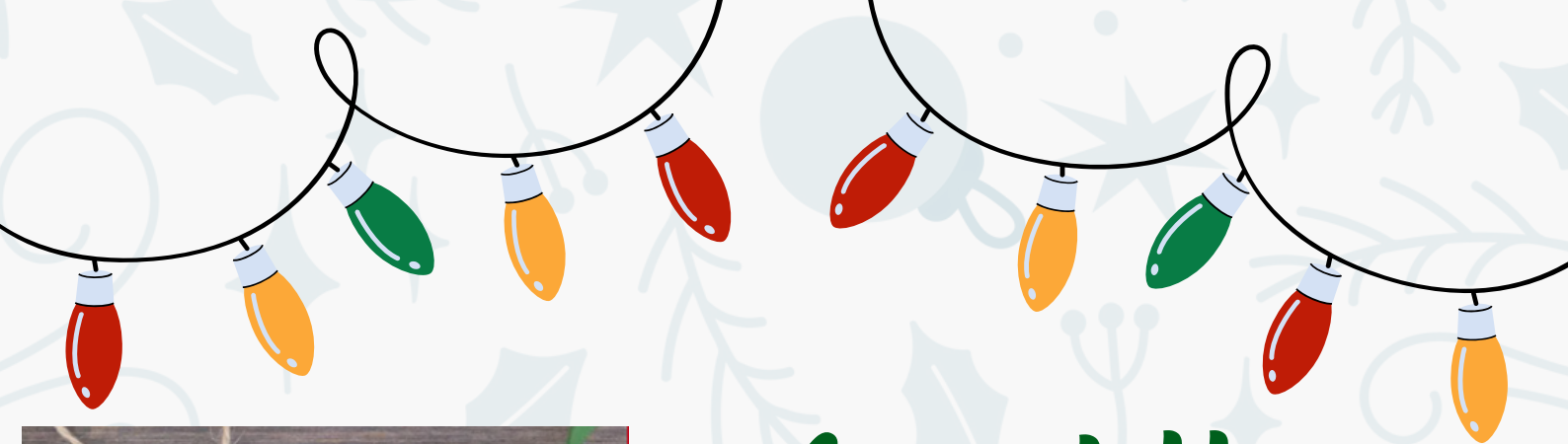
WORD SEARCH

Find the words listed below and mark them.

D	R	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	S	A	L
R	E	D	H	J	R	E	C	Y	L	C	E
S	U	S	T	A	I	N	A	B	E	L	F
X	H	F	L	M	I	N	I	M	L	A	T
N	I	C	O	M	P	O	S	T	X	S	O
G	M	Z	C	C	N	A	T	U	R	E	V
J	M	H	A	N	D	M	A	D	E	F	E
E	T	F	L	D	R	E	U	S	E	Y	R
P	U	Z	E	R	O	W	A	S	E	T	S

- CHRISTMAS
- HANDMADE
- LOCAL
- ZERO-WASTE
- REUSE
- SUSTAINABLE
- RECYCLE
- NATURE
- GIFT
- MINIMAL
- LEFTOVERS
- COMPOST





Scrap Ribbon Tree Ornaments!

SUPPLIES:

- TWIGS
- SCRAPS OF RIBBON
- SHARP SCISSORS
- TWINE (FOR HANGING)
- OPTIONAL: WOODEN STAR, BUTTON, OR METAL STAR FOR DECORATION



INSTRUCTIONS:

- **TIE THE RIBBONS:** WRAP RIBBON SCRAPS AROUND A TWIG KEEPING THEM CLOSE TOGETHER.
- **TRIM THE RIBBONS:** CUT THE RIBBONS INTO A CHRISTMAS TREE SHAPE WITH SCISSORS.
- **ADD A LOOP:** TIE TWINE AT THE TOP TO HANG YOUR ORNAMENT.
- **DECORATE THE TOP (OPTIONAL):** ADD A STAR, BUTTON, OR FUN DECORATION.

HANG AND ENJOY! YOUR
SCRAP RIBBON TREE
ORNAMENT IS READY!
HANG IT OR GIVE IT AS A
GIFT!

