



Materials in everyday Irish life

6th Class

Print and cut along the dashed lines. These carry the **text a group reads** — a job to do, a brief to research, or notes to identify by. Check the lesson's teacher notes for how many sets each group needs and how they are used: some lessons hand out one card per group, others sort or sequence a full set.

Glass

Source: Mainly sand, soda ash (a white powder used in glass-making) and limestone, heated until they melt, then cooled into a hard, clear solid. Ireland has a long history of glass-making (think famous crystal and bottle works)

Wool

Source: Comes from sheep. Sheep farming is part of rural life in many parts of Ireland. When sheep are shorn properly, the fleece grows back and the animal is not harmed

Peat-free compost

Source: Made from materials such as green waste from gardens and kitchens, wood fibre, or coconut fibre (coir), instead of peat dug from bogs. Peat bogs store large amounts of carbon and are homes for special plants and animals, and they take a very long time to form. Choosing peat-free means more peat can stay in the bog, storing carbon and supporting wildlife

Bioplastics (like the plant-based fork)

Source: Plastics made partly or fully from plant materials such as corn starch or sugar cane, instead of only oil and gas (fossil fuels). They are used in Ireland for some everyday packaging and cutlery, even when the plants are grown elsewhere