

# Waste Dates



<p><b>3,000 BC</b> - In the Cretan capital, Knossos, the first recorded landfill sites were created where waste was placed in large pits and covered with earth at various levels.</p>
<p><b>Over 2,500 years ago</b>, government officials in the Greek city-state of Athens open a municipal landfill site and decree that waste is to be transported at least one mile beyond the city gates.</p>
<p><b>1297AD</b> - In response to the increasing amount of waste deposited in towns in Britain, a law is passed to make householders keep the front of their house clear from refuse. It is largely ignored. However, most waste is burned on household open fires.</p>
<p><b>Early 1800s</b> - Many people lived by selling what they could find in other people's rubbish, even dogs' dung, which was valuable as it was used by tanners for purifying leather.</p> <p>'Toshers' worked in the sewers, a dangerous and smelly way to make a living, but lucrative as they found coins, bits of metal, ropes and sometimes jewellery.</p> <p>'Dustmen' collected the ash from coal fires. Over three and a half million tons of coal were burned in London in a year!</p>
<p><b>1875</b> - The Public Health Act 1875 charges local authorities with the duty to arrange the removal and disposal of waste. The Act also rules that householders keep their waste in a "movable receptacle," the beginning of the dustbin, which the local authorities have to empty every week.</p>
<p><b>1930s</b> - The manufacture of plastics from chemicals produced from petroleum begins (plastic products had been made from plants since 1862). The production and manufacture of plastics grows slowly over the next 20 years.</p>
<p><b>1977</b> - The first bottle banks appear in Britain</p>
<p><b>1980s</b> - The decade sees increasing public concern over waste disposal, especially of hazardous waste. The construction boom results in an estimated 1 million tonnes of illegally deposited waste lying around London at any one time.</p>
<p><b>2003</b> - The WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Directive) is implemented. England will have to collect 4kg of WEEE from every household by 2006.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Task:</b></p> <p>For each of the dated statements above, think and make a note of the benefits to people and society that they brought.</p>