

TREASURE TRASH



What is Treasure Trash? Treasure trash is the process of transforming waste or useless materials into useful or valuable things. That is recycling trash into something valuable (treasure).

5 importance of ‘Treasure Trash’

1. To help maintain a clean and healthy environment that is both suitable for man, animals and plants. To stop pollutions of any sort.
2. To encourage creativity and innovation.
3. It creates awareness (meaning that trash is not useless, that the things we throw away can later become something valuable “one person trash is another person treasure”).
4. It increases management (that is environmental sustainability).
5. This helps in acquisition of skills and can also help one make money i.e. if a person sees a bottle water he/she can use it to make flower vases, pen holders etc. which the person can sell and start making their money easy and fast.

There are principles of treasure trash and they are the basic rules that help people manage their wastes properly and turn it into something useful, and they are the 3Rs:

1. Reduce- use less materials so we don’t create much waste e.g. buying only what is needed (no impulse buying), avoiding single-use products, and choosing products with less packaging.
2. Reuse-use items again instead of throwing them away e.g. using containers multiple times, repairing damaged items, donating old clothes, books and toys.
3. Recycle/Upcycle-process waste into new products e.g. recycling paper, plastics, metals and glass, participating in recycling programs, supporting industries that use recycle materials.

EXAMPLES OF TRASH’ n TREASURE

TRASH	TREASURE/PRODUCT
Plastic bottles/caps	Vases, bags, stools, planters
Cardboard boxes	Storage boxes, shelves, toys
Used tires	Chairs, swings, flower pots
Old cans/tins	Lanterns, pencil cases, drums
Old clothes/fabrics	Bags, mats, rugs, scrunches
Newspapers/paper	Paper beads, papier-Mache art
Cds/Dvds	Mirrors, wall art, coaster

5 Guidelines for practicing treasure trash:

1. Sort waste into different categories.
2. Use eco-friendly products.
3. Encourage others to practice the 3R's.
4. Dispose of hazardous waste properly.
5. Participate in community clean up exercises.

In conclusion, treasure trash teaches us that waste can become valuable when managed properly, by following the principles of waste and by practicing the r's, we can protect our environment, conserve resources and create useful products from materials that would otherwise be discarded. Treasure trash is an important step towards building a cleaner, healthier and sustainable future and environment.

KEY QUOTES: Trash is not useless when we change how we see it (meaning that once we change our perspective of the trashes around us, there are a lot of valuables or treasures that we can achieve from just one trash than u can ever imagine), like they say one man's poison is another man's meat (what can be useless for someone can be useful or valuable to another person).

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Turning Trash into Treasure: The Beauty Hidden in Waste

In a world overflowing with waste, the idea of turning trash into treasure is more than creativity — it is a powerful reminder that beauty can be found in unexpected places.

“Treasure trash” is the art of transforming discarded materials into something valuable, useful, or beautiful. It challenges the belief that once something is thrown away, it has no purpose left. Instead, it shows that with imagination and effort, even the most ordinary waste can become extraordinary.

One of the most inspiring aspects of turning trash into treasure is the creativity it unlocks. Trash is usually seen as something useless — the end of an object’s life. But in many communities, creative minds and resourceful hands have shown that trash can become treasure.

“Treasure trash” refers to the process of transforming discarded materials into something valuable, beautiful, or useful. It challenges the idea that waste is worthless and encourages us to look at our environment with new eyes. At its core, treasure trash is about innovation and sustainability. Every day, tons of waste end up in landfills, polluting the environment and harming wildlife. Yet much of

this waste — plastic bottles, metal scraps, old clothes, broken furniture — still has potential. When people recycle, upcycle, or repurpose these materials, they reduce pollution and conserve natural resources. Instead of buying new items, they create new value from what already exists.

Treasure trash also inspires creativity. Artists turn bottle caps into murals, designers make handbags from old jeans, and children build toys from cardboard boxes. These creations are not only unique but often more meaningful than mass produced items. They carry stories — stories of transformation, imagination, and resilience.

Economically, treasure trash can open doors. In many places, people earn a living by collecting, sorting, and repurposing waste. Small businesses grow from selling recycled crafts, furniture, or household items. What was once thrown away becomes a source of income and empowerment.

Most importantly, treasure trash teaches us a powerful lesson: value is not always obvious. Something that looks useless may simply need a new purpose. By rethinking waste, we learn to rethink our habits, our environment, and even ourselves.

Treasure Trash

In a world facing climate change and rising pollution, treasure trash is more than a creative idea — it is a necessary mindset. When we choose to see potential instead of waste, we protect the planet, support communities, and unlock endless possibilities. Truly, one person’s trash can become another person’s treasure.

Designers around the world have proven that beauty does not always come from expensive materials. Old newspapers become delicate paper flowers. Plastic bottles turn into colorful

lamps. Broken tiles transform into stunning mosaics. What once looked like junk becomes a piece of art that tells a story of transformation. These creations are unique because they carry the history of the materials they came from.

Beyond art, treasure trash also plays a major role in protecting the environment. Every item that is reused is one less item that ends up in a landfill. Instead of polluting the soil or clogging waterways, waste materials get a second life. This reduces pollution, saves natural resources, and helps fight climate change. Turning trash into treasure is not just a creative act — it is an act of responsibility toward the planet.

Treasure trash also has economic value. Many people build small businesses by repurposing waste into products people want to buy. Handmade bags from old jeans, jewelry from bottle caps, furniture from wooden pallets — these items are not only affordable but also stylish and ecofriendly. What was once thrown away becomes a source of income and opportunity.

Most importantly, turning trash into treasure teaches us a deeper lesson about value and perspective. Something that looks useless may simply need a new purpose. When we learn to see potential in waste, we also learn to see potential in ourselves and in others. It reminds us that transformation is always possible.

In the end, treasure trash is more than recycling — it is a mindset. It encourages creativity, protects the environment, supports communities, and proves that beauty can come from the most unexpected places. When we choose to turn trash into treasure, we are not just creating objects; we are creating hope, possibility, and a better future for the world.

Written by Samuel Makinde

TREASURE TRASH

Many people see trash as something useless, dirty, and unwanted. Once an item is thrown away, it is often forgotten. However, what many people fail to realize is that one person's trash can become another person's treasure. The phrase "Treasure in Trash" reminds us that valuable opportunities, resources, and ideas can be found in things that others have discarded.

In today's world, waste management has become a major challenge. Streets, rivers, and even oceans are filled with discarded materials such as plastic bottles, old newspapers, metal cans, and worn-out clothes. While many people see these items as rubbish, creative minds see them as resources waiting to be transformed. Through recycling and reuse, trash can be converted into useful and valuable products. Plastic bottles can become flower pots, old tires can be turned into furniture, and scraps of metal can be fashioned into works of art. What was once considered waste suddenly gains a new purpose and value.

The concept of treasure in trash goes beyond physical objects. It also teaches an important lesson about human potential. Sometimes people are ignored, rejected, or underestimated because of their circumstances. Yet many successful individuals started life with very little and were considered unlikely to succeed. Through determination, hard work, and the support of others, they discovered the treasure hidden within themselves. Just as valuable items can be recovered from trash, hidden talents and abilities can be found in people who are often overlooked.

Furthermore, finding treasure in trash contributes greatly to environmental protection. Recycling reduces pollution, conserves natural resources, and decreases the amount of waste that ends up in landfills. When people learn to reuse and recycle materials, they help create a cleaner and healthier environment. This not only benefits the present generation but also preserves the earth for future generations. What seems like a simple act of sorting waste can have a powerful impact on society.

Many young entrepreneurs have also discovered economic opportunities in waste. Across the world, businesses are being built on the collection, recycling, and transformation of discarded materials. These ventures create jobs, generate income, and contribute to national development. In this way, trash becomes a source of wealth and innovation rather than a burden.

The story of treasure in trash teaches us to look beyond appearances. Valuable things are not always wrapped in shiny packages, and opportunities are not always obvious at first glance. Sometimes, what we ignore today may become the key to solving tomorrow's problems. By developing creativity, responsibility, and an open mind, we can learn to uncover hidden value where others see none.

In conclusion, trash is not always the end of an item's journey. With vision, creativity, and effort, waste can be transformed into something useful, beautiful, and profitable. The idea of "Treasure in Trash" encourages us to protect our environment, appreciate hidden potential, and recognize opportunities in unexpected places. Indeed, when we learn to see value where others see waste, we discover that treasures can often be found in the most unlikely places.

Written by Eze Onyinye Precious

From Trash to Treasure: Valuable Waste

Many materials such as plastic bottles, old newspapers, cans, and cardboard can be recycled and reused. These items can be turned into useful products instead of ending up in landfills. For example, old bottles can be used to make flower pots, while used paper can be recycled into new notebooks.

Most people see waste as something useless. They throw it away without a second thought, believing it has no value. However, what many people call "trash" can often become a treasure. Valuable waste has the power to improve lives, protect the environment, and even create opportunities for people who have lost almost everything.

In my community, it is common to see piles of plastic bottles, old newspapers, and worn-out metal objects scattered around. To some people, these items are worthless. Yet, to others, they are a source of income. Many individuals collect recyclable materials and sell them to recycling companies. What was once thrown away becomes a means of survival for families struggling to make ends meet.

One experience changed my understanding of waste forever. I once saw an elderly man searching through a heap of rubbish under the scorching sun. At first, I pitied him. Then I noticed that he carefully separated bottles, cans, and pieces of cardboard. Later, I learned that he sold these materials and used the money to feed his grandchildren after losing his job. The waste that others ignored became the treasure that kept his family alive.

Valuable waste is not only important economically but also environmentally. Recycling reduces pollution, conserves natural resources, and helps keep our surroundings clean. Every plastic bottle recycled is one less bottle polluting rivers and oceans. Every piece of paper reused means fewer trees are cut down.

Furthermore, creative individuals transform waste into beautiful products. Old tyres become flower pots, glass bottles become decorations, and scraps of fabric become fashionable accessories. These innovations prove that value is not always found in new things. Sometimes, the greatest treasures are hidden in what society discards.

In conclusion, waste should not always be seen as useless rubbish. With creativity, determination, and proper management, trash can become treasure. Valuable waste teaches us an important lesson: something that appears worthless today may become a source of hope tomorrow.

Written by: Morenike Itunu Ige
A Contribution to the ISA Project, DOWEN College Lagos.

Treasure in Trash

Many people think that trash is useless and should be thrown away immediately. However, this is not always true. The saying "Treasure in Trash" means that things we consider worthless can still be useful and valuable. With creativity and proper recycling, many discarded items can be transformed into something beneficial.

Every day, people throw away large amounts of waste such as plastic bottles, cans, old clothes, newspapers, cardboard boxes, and glass containers. Instead of ending up in landfills, many of these materials can be reused or recycled. For example, plastic bottles can be turned into flower pots, bird feeders, or storage containers. Old clothes can be donated, repaired, or used to make bags and cleaning clothes. Even empty cans can be used for decorations and craft projects. Many materials such as plastic bottles, old newspapers, cans, and cardboard can be recycled and reused. These items can be turned into useful products instead of ending up in landfills. For example, old bottles can be used to make flower pots, while used paper can be recycled into new notebooks.

Finding treasure in trash has many benefits. One of the most important benefits is environmental protection. Recycling and reusing materials reduce the amount of waste that pollutes our land, water, and air. It also helps conserve natural resources because fewer raw materials are needed to produce new products. As a result, energy is saved, and pollution is reduced.

Another benefit of turning trash into treasure is that it encourages creativity and innovation. Many artists and craftsmen use waste materials to create beautiful artworks, sculptures, and household items. Schools often organize recycling projects that teach students how to make useful objects from discarded materials. These activities help develop problem-solving skills and encourage responsible habits.

In addition, trash can sometimes provide economic opportunities. Many people earn money by collecting recyclable materials and selling them to recycling companies. Others start small businesses that create products from recycled items. This not only generates income but also helps reduce waste in the community.

Everyone can play a part in turning trash into treasure. We can separate recyclable materials from our household waste, reuse items whenever possible, and support recycling programs. Small actions can make a big difference in keeping our environment clean and healthy.

In conclusion, trash should not always be seen as useless. Many discarded items still have value and can be transformed into useful products. By reusing, recycling, and being creative, we can discover treasure in trash. This practice benefits both people and the environment, making our communities cleaner, greener, and more sustainable.

Written by Ifeoluwa Ajado

How to Turn Waste into Wealth

Traditionally, waste has been viewed as a burden, something to be discarded and forgotten. However, in today's world of limited resources and growing environmental challenges, waste must be reimagined as a potential resource. The concept of turning waste into wealth is both practical and essential for sustainable development. By adopting innovative approaches, society can protect the environment, conserve resources, and create new economic opportunities.

Recycling is one of the most effective ways to transform waste into wealth. Materials such as plastics, paper, glass, and metals can be collected and processed to produce new products. This reduces the demand for raw materials, saves energy, and creates employment opportunities. For example, recycling aluminium cans uses far less energy than producing new cans from raw ore and creates income for those involved in collection and processing. In South Africa, recycling cooperatives have empowered local communities by turning discarded plastics into building materials, demonstrating how recycling can simultaneously reduce waste and fight poverty.

Organic waste also holds great potential. Food scraps, agricultural residues, and animal waste can be composted to produce natural fertilizers. Compost enriches soil, improves crop yields, and reduces dependence on chemical fertilizers. Farmers who adopt composting not only save money but can also sell compost as a product, thereby generating additional income. In India, vermicomposting projects have successfully turned household and farm waste into nutrient-rich fertilizers, creating rural employment and boosting agricultural productivity.

In addition to recycling and composting, waste can be converted into energy. Biogas plants convert animal and food waste into methane, which can be used for cooking and electricity generation. Waste-to-energy plants burn non-recyclable materials to produce power, thereby reducing landfill use while generating revenue. A striking example is Copenhagen's Copenhill facility, which incinerates hundreds of thousands of tons of waste annually to provide electricity and heat for homes while doubling as a recreational space with hiking trails and a ski slope. Similarly, in Shenzhen, China, the East Waste-to-Energy Plant processes thousands of tons of trash daily and produces hundreds of millions of kilowatt-hours of electricity annually. These examples show how waste can be harnessed to meet energy needs while reducing the environmental hazards.

Nigeria has also begun exploring waste-to-wealth initiatives. In Lagos, the Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) has partnered with private companies to recycle plastic and convert organic waste into biogas. Pilot projects in communities such as Ikoyi and Surulere have shown that household waste can be separated, recycled, and sold, creating jobs for waste pickers and reducing the city's mounting landfill problems. In addition, small-scale entrepreneurs have started turning discarded sachet water bags into handbags and shoes, proving that innovation can thrive at the grassroots level.

Another innovative approach is upcycling, which involves the creative repurposing of discarded materials into higher-value products. Old tires can be converted into playground equipment, bottles into decorative items, and scrap wood into furniture. This not only reduces

waste but also supports small businesses and artisans who rely on creativity to earn a livelihood.

Industries are also adopting circular economy models, in which waste from one process becomes the raw material for another. Breweries, for instance, use spent grains to produce animal feed, while textile companies recycle fabric scraps into new clothing lines. Such innovations reduce costs, minimize waste, and create new business opportunities.

Ultimately, turning waste into wealth requires a change in mindset. Waste should not be viewed as a burden but as a resource waiting to be tapped. Through recycling, composting, energy generation, upcycling, and industrial innovation, societies can reduce pollution, conserve resources, and create jobs. The transformation of waste into wealth is not only an environmental necessity but also a pathway to economic growth and sustainable prosperity.



Trash; One Man's Trash is Another Man's Treasure

Pollution is one of the greatest tragedies facing our world today. Every day, people throw away enormous amounts of waste without considering the damage it causes to the environment. As a result, rivers become contaminated, oceans fill with plastic, and the air becomes polluted. Consequently, both humans and animals suffer from the harmful effects of waste.

According to global environmental reports, the world produces more than 2 billion tonnes of trash every year. In fact, this amount is so massive that it is comparable to the combined weight of millions of elephants and even several million blue whales. Furthermore, experts predict that waste production could rise to nearly 4 billion tonnes by 2050 if no serious action is taken.

The effects of pollution are alarming. Firstly, plastic waste kills marine animals that mistake it for food. Secondly, burning garbage releases toxic gases that contribute to global warming and respiratory diseases. Moreover, poorly managed waste attracts pests and spreads illnesses within communities. Therefore, pollution is not merely an environmental problem; it is also a threat to human health and survival.

However, there is still hope. Instead of viewing trash as useless, people can see it as a valuable resource. For example, old bottles can be transformed into flowerpots, while discarded tires can be turned into playground equipment. Likewise, scrap metal and paper can be recycled into new products. In addition, innovative technologies are making recycling more effective. Scientists are now crushing waste glass to create building materials that can replace natural sand, thereby reducing the excessive mining of river sand. Similarly, some companies convert plastic waste into road surfaces and construction bricks.

Therefore, everyone has a role to play. By reducing waste, reusing old items, and recycling materials, individuals can help protect the planet. Moreover, communities can organize clean-up campaigns and encourage responsible waste disposal. In conclusion, what one person considers trash may become another person's treasure. If humanity embraces this idea, pollution can be reduced and a cleaner future can be created for generations to come.

Written by Daniel Olakunle

One Person's Trash, Another Person's Treasure

Have you ever looked at an old plastic bottle, a worn-out tyre, or a pile of newspapers and thought they were completely useless? Most people would throw them away without a second thought. However, hidden within these discarded items lies a world of possibilities. The saying, "One person's trash is another person's treasure," reminds us that many things we consider worthless can be transformed into valuable and useful resources.

In today's modern world, waste has become one of the greatest environmental challenges. Every day, millions of tonnes of rubbish are generated from homes, schools, industries, and offices. Unfortunately, much of this waste is dumped indiscriminately, polluting our land, water, and air. Yet, with creativity and innovation, many of these materials can be given a new purpose. What appears to be trash today can become a treasure tomorrow.

The process of turning trash into treasure can take many forms. Plastic bottles can be transformed into flower vases, bird feeders, or decorative lamps. Old tyres can become playground swings or attractive garden furniture. Worn-out clothes can be redesigned into fashionable bags, while scrap metal can be used to create beautiful works of art. Through recycling and upcycling, waste materials are converted into products that are both useful and valuable.

Beyond its creative appeal, turning trash into treasure offers numerous benefits. It helps to reduce environmental pollution by decreasing the amount of waste sent to landfills. It also conserves natural resources since fewer raw materials are needed to manufacture new products. Furthermore, recycling industries create employment opportunities and generate income for many people. What some regard as rubbish can become a source of livelihood for others.

Young people, in particular, have an important role to play. Schools can organize recycling projects, art competitions, and environmental awareness programmes to encourage students to think creatively about waste. By developing responsible habits at an early age, future generations can contribute to a cleaner and greener world.

In conclusion, trash is not always the end of an item's journey. With imagination, determination, and proper waste management, discarded materials can be transformed into treasures that benefit both society and the environment. Rather than seeing waste as a problem, we should view it as an opportunity. After all, treasures are not always found in treasure chests; sometimes, they are hidden in our trash bins.

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TRASH TO TREASURE: A NEW PERSPECTIVE

The topic "Treasure Trash" is actually very interesting and deep when you think about it because it shows that nothing is truly useless unless we decide it is. In our world today, we throw away so many things that could still be used, which is why the saying "one man's trash is another man's treasure" is so popular. Treasure trash is basically about having a creative eye and seeing the value in things that other people have already abandoned or forgotten. For example, instead of just throwing away empty plastic bottles or old Milo tins, they can be decorated and turned into beautiful flower pots or even cute containers for pens and makeup brushes on a study desk. This is what people call upcycling, and it helps our environment a lot by reducing the amount of waste that ends up in landfills or blocking our gutters.

Creatively, trash can become a masterpiece with enough patience. Artists often use scrap metal, old fabric, or broken glass to make sculptures that look amazing. You realize the "treasure" is actually the imagination used to change something dirty into something beautiful. Even with fashion, an old gown that doesn't fit can be cut into a trendy new top, or an old crate can be painted to look like a cool vintage seat. It is all about seeing the potential in things that look dusty or broken at first.

Unfortunately, most people prefer buying new things because of our "throwaway culture." We forget the resources used to make items and just replace them constantly. If we look at waste differently, we can save money and protect the planet from pollution. Treasure trash reminds us not to judge things by how they look on the outside. With a little creativity, even "rubbish" can shine like gold again, teaching us to be resourceful and appreciate what we already have.

TREASURE TRASH

Can trash become treasure? In Nigeria and across the world, the answer is yes, because waste can be turned into wealth, jobs, and cleaner communities.

In Nigeria, waste is a major problem. The country generates about 32 million tonnes of waste every year, but only 20–30 percent is collected, and plastic recycling remains below 10 percent. Daily waste generation is estimated at about 0.51 kg per person, and total waste could rise to 107 million tonnes by 2050 if the situation is not improved. These numbers show that Nigeria is facing a serious environmental challenge, but they also show why waste management should be treated as an opportunity, not just a problem.

The good news is that many Nigerians are already turning waste into useful products and income. In Lagos, circular economy projects have supported young entrepreneurs who recycle plastics and create new business ideas from waste. One recycling facility in Nigeria was reported to put 1 million kilograms of waste back into the production economy every month and create jobs for about 3,000 people. This proves that waste can become a source of employment and development when handled properly.

Waste-to-wealth is not only important for Nigeria; it is also a global need. The world produces huge amounts of waste, and global plastic waste was estimated at about 360 million metric tons in 2020. Global e-waste reached 62 million metric tons in 2022 and may rise to more than 80 million tons by 2030. The International Monetary Fund also notes that global waste is expected to grow sharply, especially in developing countries. This means countries must adopt recycling, composting, reuse, and other circular economy ideas to protect the planet.

The circular economy is a better way of living because it reduces waste and saves resources. Instead of the old system of “take, use, and throw away,” materials are reused, repaired, and recycled. This approach helps reduce pollution, protect water and land, and slow climate damage. It also opens doors for innovation, especially for young people who want to build businesses that solve real problems.

Nigeria can benefit greatly if government, schools, businesses, and communities work together. Better waste collection systems, public awareness, and support for recycling industries can help the country reduce pollution and create wealth. Young people should be encouraged to see waste as a raw material for creativity and enterprise.

In conclusion, trash can truly become treasure when people change their mindset and manage waste wisely. Nigeria has a big waste problem, but it also has a big opportunity to turn that problem into progress. The world is already moving toward a cleaner, more profitable future, and Nigeria must not be left behind.