

PRE-SCHOOL

And you?

Do you keep
the water clean?

Environmental awareness activities.
Sanitation

Canaleduca



Introduction

More and more people are becoming aware of the **solid waste** that pollutes our water, particularly the problem that, for some time now, has been causing what we call **emerging waste**.

What is this waste? This group includes wet wipes, cotton buds, leftover food, medicines, fats and oils.

To raise awareness and to work on how to dispose of this waste properly, at Canal Gestión we have created the character of Matilda, an inquisitive and likeable girl who, at only 5 years of age, is able to instil greater environmental awareness in both adults and children.

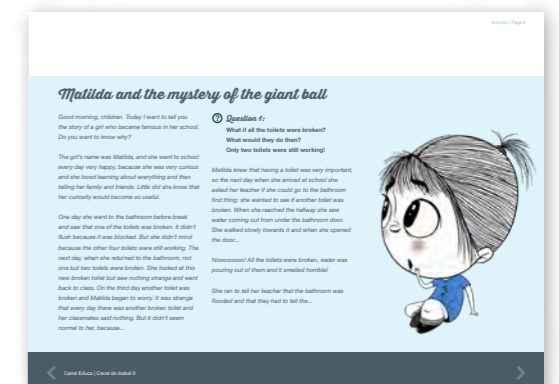
At Canal Educa we have designed this activity —in which both your students and Matilda play leading roles— so that you can work on how to **manage this waste correctly**, especially the waste generated in children’s daily lives.

What does it involve?

We have designed a **participatory activity** for you to do in the classroom that encourages the students to think and stimulates their curiosity, while encouraging their active involvement as part of the solution.

What information will you find?


- Type of activity
- Brief description of the activity
- Objective
- Contents developed
- Duration of the activity
- Materials required
- Instructions for the activity
- Suggestions or ideas
- Printable material and links for downloading



Introduction



Do you want more?

If you want to see Matilda in action, and learn her secrets in the fight against wet wipes first-hand, take a look at this fun [video](#). 

Share it with your students!

You also have access to educational posters that you can put up in your school or distribute amongst your peers at www.sumatealretodelagua.com or by clicking [here](#).

PRESCHOOL

And you? Do you keep the water clean?

Activity worksheet



45 minutes



What are you going to do?

Matilda is a preschooler and the star of our story. Through an event that takes place at Matilda's school, your students will learn, by participating, how to correctly use the toilet and will therefore play their part in helping the sanitation system to function properly.

To do this, they will actively participate in the story because, in order to keep the story moving forward, they will have to **play games and answer questions**.

At the end of the story they will discover **what they can do individually** to improve their relationship with water.

Objectives

- Learn about the most common types of solid waste in their daily lives.
- Differentiate between waste that can be flushed down the toilet and waste that cannot.

Contents

- Types of solid waste
- Waste that should be disposed of in the bin

Materials you will need

- Wet wipes
- Toilet paper
- Tissues
- Cotton
- Two clear glasses with water
- Printouts: *Everyday actions*
- Printouts: toilet and bin
- Printouts: *Types of waste*

How to do the activity

Before you begin:

- 1 Place** the following **objects** in the **classroom** where they can be seen: a packet of wet wipes, a roll of toilet paper, cotton and tissues.
- 2** Have to hand two transparent glasses with water and a spoon.
- 3 Print:**
 - *Everyday actions*
 - *Toilet and bin*
 - *Types of waste*
- 4** Next, present the activity to your students as a story and **read it to them**. Encourage them to participate in the questions and games that we have included.
- 5** Finally, **sing together** the song at the end of the story.

Matilda and the mystery of the giant ball

Good morning, children. Today I want to tell you the story of a girl who became famous in her school. Do you want to know why?

The girl's name was Matilda, and she went to school every day very happy, because she was very curious and she loved learning about everything and then telling her family and friends. Little did she know that her curiosity would become so useful.

One day she went to the bathroom before break and saw that one of the toilets was broken. It didn't flush because it was blocked. But she didn't mind because the other four toilets were still working. The next day, when she returned to the bathroom, not one but two toilets were broken. She looked at this new broken toilet but saw nothing strange and went back to class. On the third day another toilet was broken and Matilda began to worry. It was strange that every day there was another broken toilet and her classmates said nothing. But it didn't seem normal to her, because...

? Question 1:

What if all the toilets were broken?

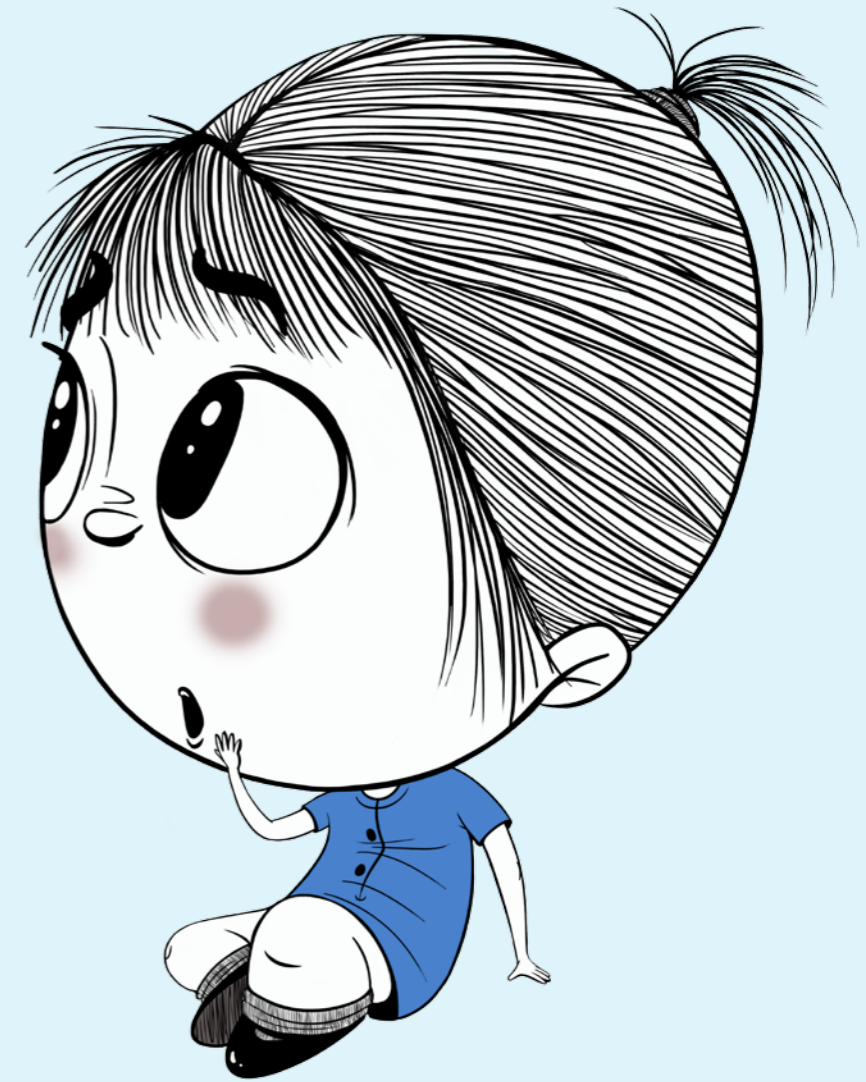
What would they do then?

Only two toilets were still working!

Matilda knew that having a toilet was very important, so the next day when she arrived at school she asked her teacher if she could go to the bathroom first thing: she wanted to see if another toilet was broken. When she reached the hallway she saw water coming out from under the bathroom door. She walked slowly towards it and when she opened the door...

Noooooooooo! All the toilets were broken, water was pouring out of them and it smelled horrible!

She ran to tell her teacher that the bathroom was flooded and that they had to tell the...



Matilda and the mystery of the giant ball

? Question 2:

Hmm. What do we call the person who fixes taps and water pipes?

The teacher left Matilda in charge of the class and went to call Matías, the plumber. When Matías entered the bathroom he could not believe his eyes! The bathroom hadn't flooded like that for years. He turned off the water supply to the whole school building and went down to the basement to take a look at the pipes.

When Matthew came back up from the basement, Matilda and all her classmates were waiting in the hallway, eager to know what had happened.

—Eeeeeuuurrrghhh! What is that, Matías? —all the children screamed at once.

Matías was pulling a giant grey-white ball that stank.

—This ball is the reason that all the bathroom pipes were blocked. I don't know how this stinking ball got into to the pipes, but I'll find out! —said Matías. And he asked class by class who had thrown the giant ball down the toilet.

While Matías was asking in all the classes, Matilda thought that just one child could not have thrown that ball down the toilet. It was very big, and very heavy. It was so big that it could not fit in the toilet bowl. But if it could not fit in the toilet, how did it get into the pipes?

Matilda wanted to help Matías find out who had done it, so when the plumber came to her class with the ball, Matilda asked him what it was made of. But Matías could not answer because the ball was made of many things, and he said that he would send the ball to a special water laboratory so they could analyse it.

As Matilda could not wait for the laboratory results, she proposed to her classmates that they find out what the ball was made of; all they knew is that it had to be made of white stuff that someone had thrown down the toilet. Together they started to look for objects of that colour in their class.



Matilda and the mystery of the giant ball

Group activity 1:

What did they find? Can you imagine?

Let's search our classroom to see what we can find!

Your students should find the objects that you have previously placed in the classroom: wet wipes, toilet paper, cotton and tissues.

After seeing all the things that the giant ball could have been made of, Matilda had a slight idea of what the main ingredient was, but she wanted to keep investigating to be totally sure. Of course, all this talk about toilets made her want to go herself and she asked the teacher if she could go to the toilet.

The teacher gave her permission but reminded her that, since Matías was fixing the pipes,

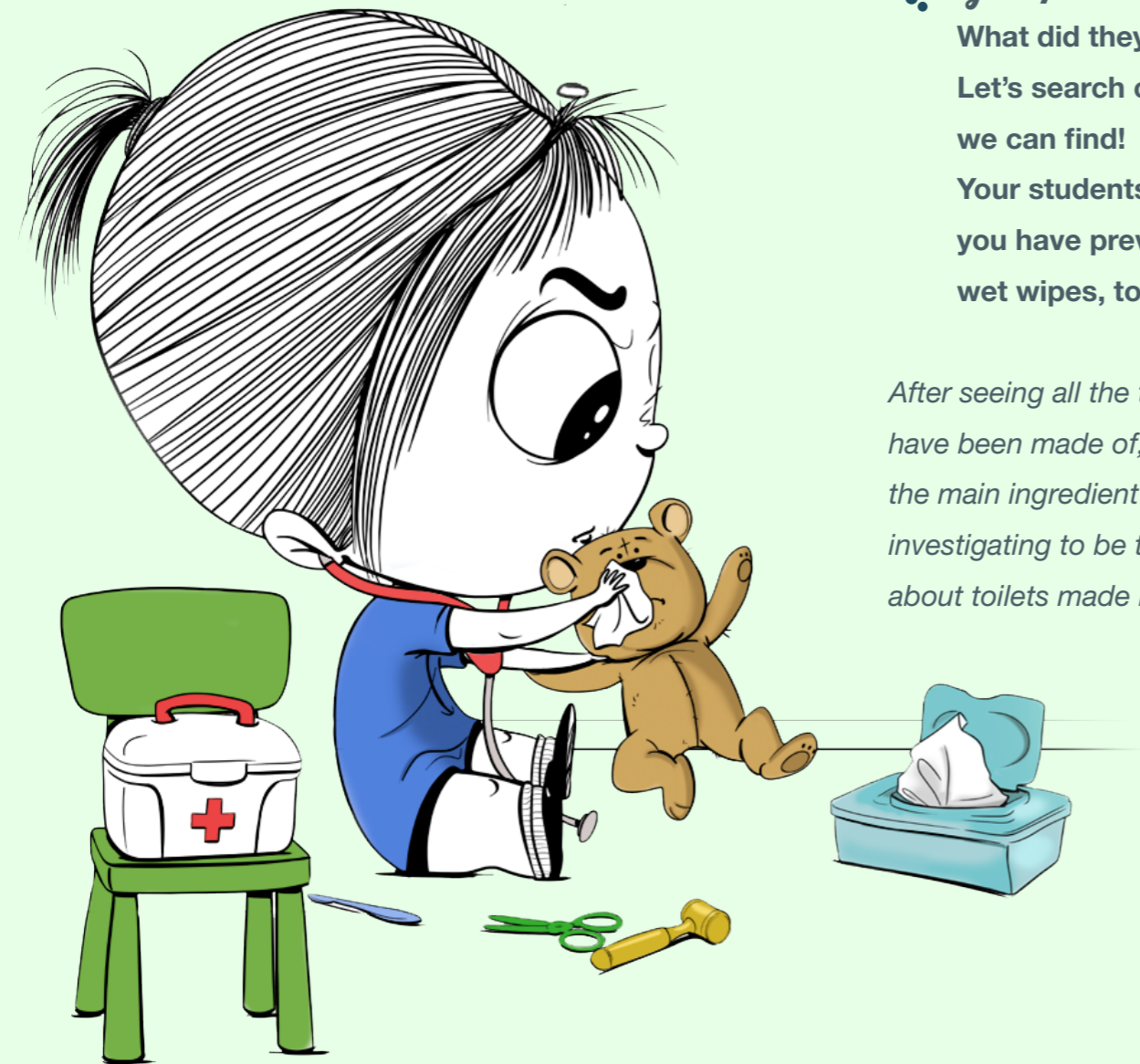
there was no water, so she could not flush anything down the toilet, only pee.

And so the morning passed, without water in the bathrooms and with the children having to throw waste in the bin instead of the toilet. At the end of the day, do you know how many bins had been filled only by Matilda's class? No more and no less than five!

When Matilda looked in the bins she saw that they were full of toilet paper and, especially, wet wipes, so she asked her teacher why there were so many wipes.

—I don't know, Matilda, but I've just thought of a game to find out —answered the teacher.

I'm going to show you some pictures of various people doing different things. You have to decide when you would use wet wipes and when you would use toilet paper.



Matilda and the mystery of the giant ball

Group activity 2:

¿What would you use?

From the images *Everyday actions*, your students have to choose in which of them they would use wipes and in which they would use toilet paper or when they would simply wash with soap and water.

In Matilda's class they realised that they used wipes for almost everything.

The next day, Matías was visiting the classes to let them know that he had fixed the bathrooms. When he got to Matilda's class, she raised her hand to speak to Matías and told him that she knew what the main ingredient of the stinking giant ball was! But before she could speak, Matías told the children not to use so much toilet paper because it clogged the toilet.

—But Matías! Are you sure it's toilet paper? Matilda asked.

—What can it be, if not, Matilda? It's white and it's in the bathroom. I'm sure you play with toilet paper and then throw it in the toilet!

Matilda was sure it was not toilet paper, because at home they do not use wipes, only toilet paper, and the toilet never got blocked. But she had to prove it to Matías. Do you know what she did?

She filled two clear glasses with water: in one she put a piece of toilet paper and in the other a wet wipe, and she began to stir and stir and stir... What do you think breaks down into small pieces: the wipe or the toilet paper?



Matilda and the mystery of the giant ball

Experiment:

Let's do it ourselves to check.

Prepare two glasses of water, each with a sample of the two materials. Stir both glasses for 1 minute.

What happens?

Exactly! The wipes do not disintegrate.

Matías was astonished... But what are those wipes used for? And what are they doing in the pipes if you can only flush toilet paper down the toilet?

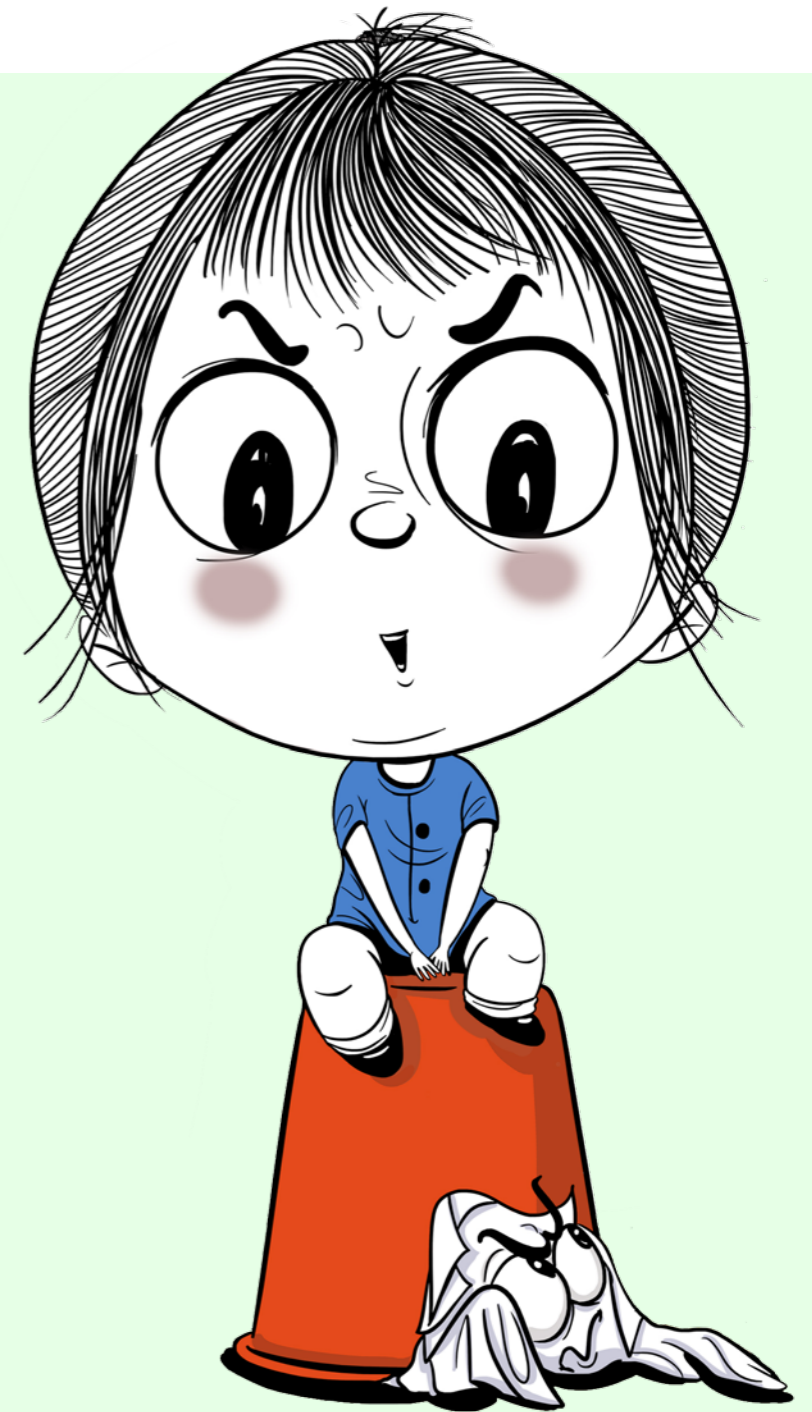
Matías called the water laboratory to ask about his giant ball, and the lab confirmed what Matilda had said. The ball was made up of many things that the students had thrown down the toilet, but what it contained more than anything else were wipes! And when the lab technician was going to say what else was in the ball, Matías' mobile phone ran out of battery and he could not find out more.

Matías knew that Matilda was very interested in the mystery of the giant ball, so he went to her class to share the laboratory results with them.

—You were right, Matilda, the ball is made almost entirely of wipes, but the laboratory also told me that they found many more things that we normally use in the bathroom and that should not be flushed down the toilet but thrown in the bin; but my phone ran out of battery and I could not hear any more!

Do you know what things CANNOT be flushed down the toilet?
(Allow time for your students to respond)

Matilda looked at her teacher and asked her if they could help Matías and show him all together where things should be thrown after use: in the toilet or in the bin.



Matilda and the mystery of the giant ball

Group activity 3:

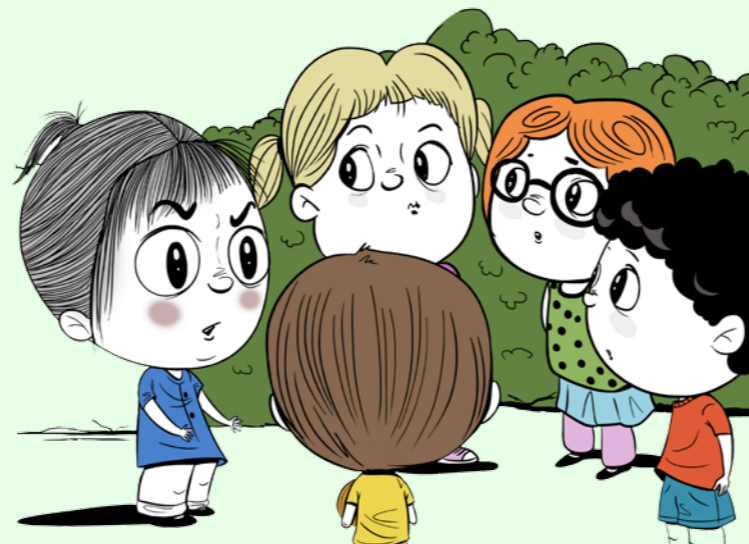
The pictures of the different types of waste have to be placed on the picture showing where they should be disposed of after use (bin or toilet). You can then hang this up in the classroom or the bathroom as a reminder.

With the help of the children, Matías found out that the problem was not toilet paper, which you CAN flush down the toilet, but all the other rubbish, like cotton buds, plasters, hair... but mostly wet wipes, which do not disintegrate because they join with others and form giant balls that clog pipes and stop the toilets from working.

And it's so easy to use a bin!

Happy that she now knew why the giant ball had formed, Matilda told her parents and her neighbours

what she had learned about wet wipes. Later that day, while she was having an afternoon snack, she made up a song. The next day at school she asked her teacher if she could visit all the other classrooms and teach the children to use the toilet properly with her song.



Do you want to learn
Matilda's song?

*What's a wipe like you doing
in a toilet like this?
What are you doing clogging up
these pipes?*

**Wet
wipes
Wet
wipes...**

Always making problems!

**Wet
wipes
Wet
wipes...**

In the bin!

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