

VITAL STATISTICS

MATERIAL: ALUMINIUM

MADE FROM: BAUXITE

PROPERTIES: LIGHTWEIGHT, DURABLE,
MALLEABLE, CORROSION
RESISTANT

USED IN: FOOD CANS, FOIL,
DRINK CANS

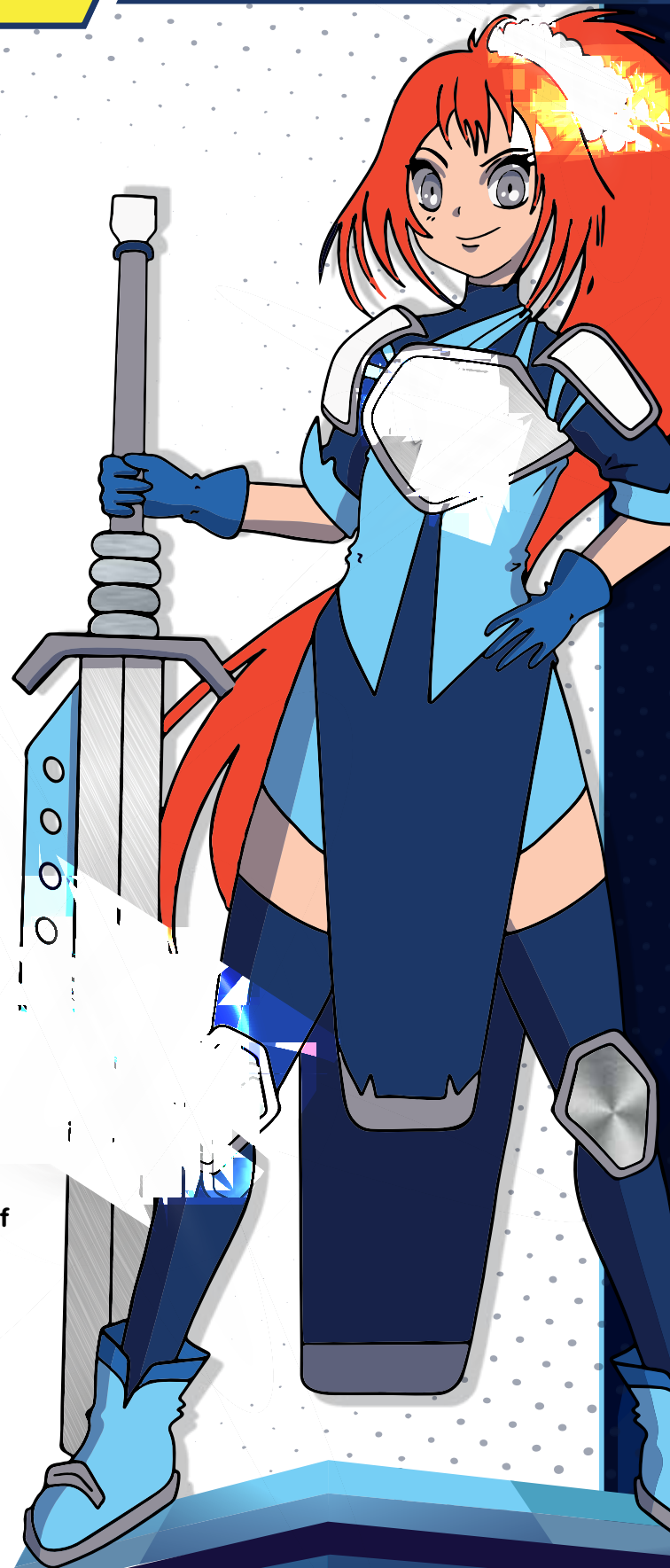
TIME TO DECOMPOSE: 200 YEARS

PACKAGING STATS

**EVERY YEAR, IRELAND USES
OVER 300 MILLION CANS**

RECYCLABILITY FACTS

- Aluminium packaging is 100% recyclable into any type of metal product: from a paper clip to a car engine part, an iron to an aeroplane.
- 7 out of 10 aluminium drink cans sold in Ireland are collected for recycling. 73% of aluminium drink cans are recycled.
- Recycling a tonne of aluminium saves 9 tonnes of CO₂ emissions and 4 tonnes of bauxite – the raw material from which aluminium is made.
- Recycling cans saves up to 95% of the energy it takes to make aluminium from raw materials.
- Recycling one aluminium can saves enough energy to power your TV for three hours.
- It takes the same amount of energy to make one new aluminium can as it does to recycle 20.
- 75% of all the aluminium ever made is still in circulation today.



VITAL STATISTICS

MATERIAL: PLASTIC

MADE FROM: OIL

PROPERTIES: LIGHTWEIGHT, DURABLE,
MALLEABLE, CORROSION
RESISTANT

USED IN: PLASTIC CUPS, CUTLERY,
BAGS, STRAWS

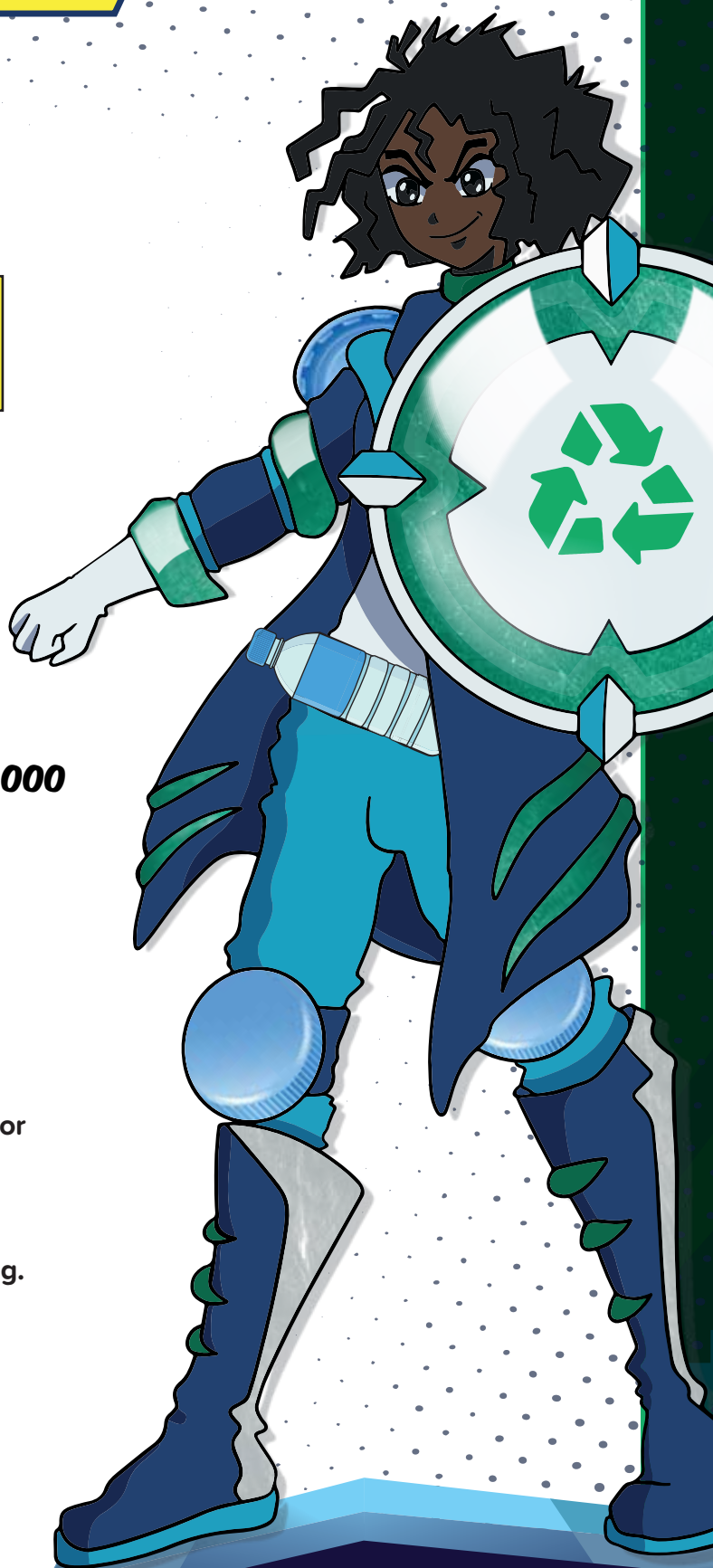
TIME TO DECOMPOSE: UP TO 1000
YEARS

PACKAGING STATS

**EVERY YEAR, IRELAND USES OVER 260,000
TONNES OF PLASTIC PACKAGING**

RECYCLABILITY FACTS

- The number of times plastic can be recycled depends on the type, however plastic is not infinitely recyclable.
- Rigid plastics like sandwich boxes, yogurt tubs, or shampoo bottles go into the recycling bin. Soft plastics, like crisp packets or labels are not yet recycled here in Ireland.
- Ireland recycles around 35% of plastic packaging.
- Recycling 1 tonne of plastic bottles saves almost 2 tonnes of carbon.
- It takes 66% less energy to make a plastic bottle from recycled plastic compared with using 'raw' materials.
- 1 recycled plastic bottle would save enough energy to power a 60-watt light bulb for up to 3 hours.
- A pair of jeans includes an average of 8 recycled plastic bottles.



VITAL STATISTICS

MATERIAL: STEEL

MADE FROM: IRON AND CARBON

PROPERTIES: STRONG, DURABLE,
MALLEABLE,
CONDUCTS HEAT

USED IN: FOOD CANS, DRINK CANS,
AEROSOLS, PET FOOD TINS

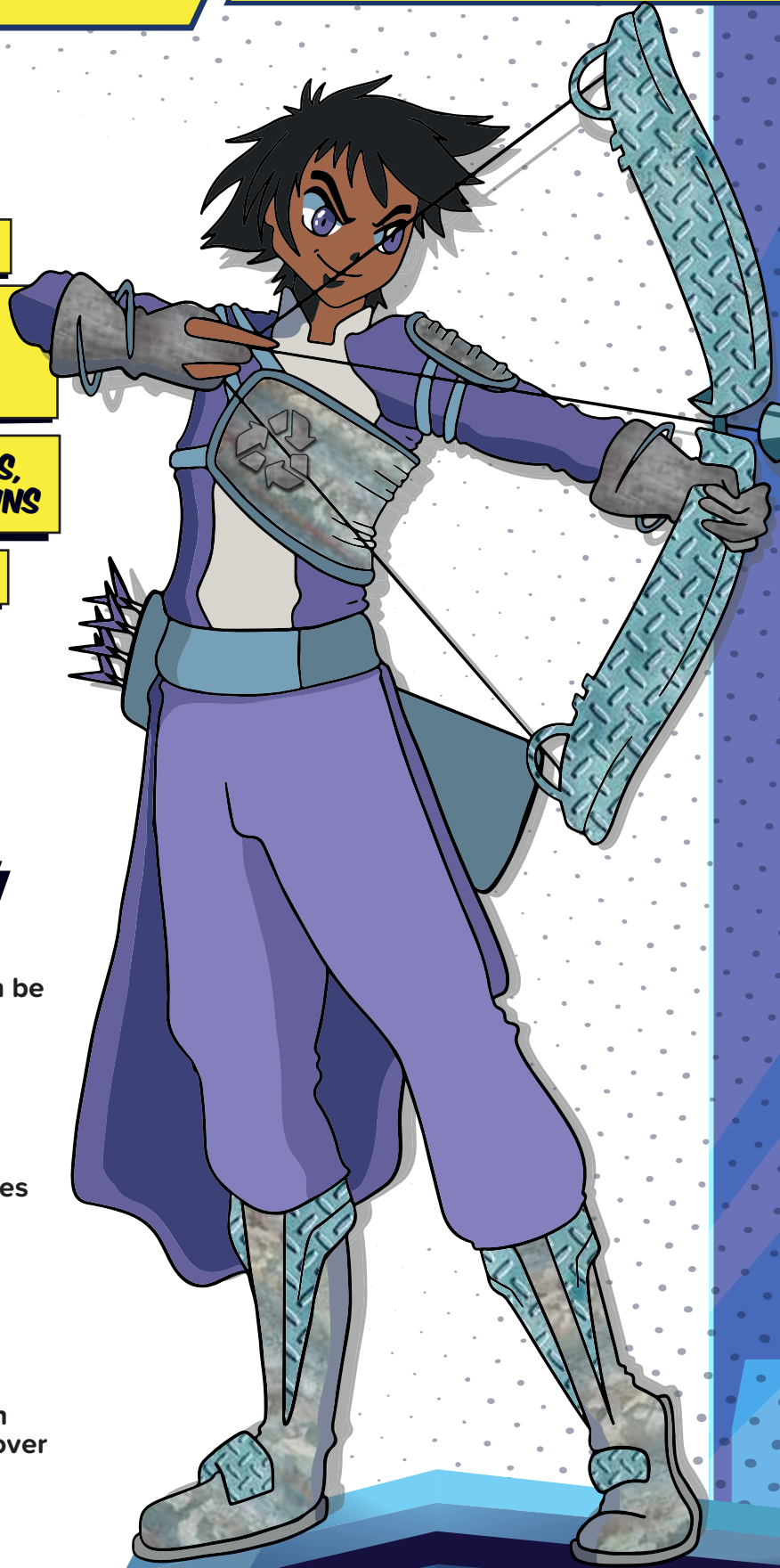
TIME TO DECOMPOSE: 50 YEARS

PACKAGING STATS

**EVERY YEAR, IRELAND USES
300 MILLION CANS**

RECYCLABILITY FACTS

- Steel cans are 100% recyclable. They can be made into more steel cans, bicycles, car parts, and other everyday products.
- 64% of metal packaging is recycled in Ireland.
- Recycling a tonne of steel saves 1.4 tonnes of iron ore and saves 1.5 tonnes of CO₂ emissions.
- Recycling steel saves up to 74% of the energy needed to make steel from raw materials.
- Recycling seven steel cans saves enough energy to power a 60-watt lightbulb for over 24 hours.
- Steel is the most recycled material on the planet, more than all other materials combined.
- Almost every new car is made up of around 25% recycled steel.



VITAL STATISTICS

MATERIAL: GLASS

MADE FROM: SAND, SODA ASH AND LIMESTONE

PROPERTIES: HARD, BRITTLE, TRANSPARENT

USED IN: BOTTLES, JARS

TIME TO DECOMPOSE: NEVER

PACKAGING STATS

EVERY YEAR, IRELAND USES OVER 163,000 TONNES OF GLASS PACKAGING

RECYCLABILITY FACTS

- Glass is 100% recyclable and can be reused over and over again, without losing quality.
- Ireland recycles around 82% of its glass packaging.
- Every tonne of glass recycled saves 0.2 tonnes of CO₂ emissions and saves 1.2 tonnes of raw materials including 1,300 pounds of sand; 410 pounds of soda ash; and 380 pounds of limestone.
- Glass placed in landfill will never decompose. Archaeologists are still finding glass used during the Roman age.
- Clear glass bottles contain around 32% recycled glass, whereas green bottles contain as much as 68% recycled glass.
- Recycling just one glass bottle saves enough energy to watch YouTube for 15 minutes.
- On average an Irish family will use around 500 glass bottles and jars each year.

