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10 AMAZING HISTORICAL FACTS ABOUT RECYCLING

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The Statue of Liberty is covered with 80 tonnes of partly recycled copper and bronze plating and was shipped in pieces from France to the USA.

1

Man has been melting and re-melting metal since 700BC.

2

The Chinese have been re-melting metals since 2500BC. Between 50 and 100AD, they learned how to make rice paper, used for writing, making handkerchiefs, parasols, clothing and windows. It was often reused.

10

Geoffrey Chaucer (1340-1400) the "father of British literature" – author of "The Canterbury Tales" – worked in the recycling sector. In 1389, he was appointed as "Clerk of the King's Works at the Tower of London and Westminster Palace". His job was to manage and keep accounts of the old metals and rags collected on the order of the King.

3

Built in 282BC the Colossus of Rhodes was cast partly of recycled bronze. It toppled into the harbour following an earthquake but was recovered and recycled by the Turks 900 years later.

8

The printing press had a greater impact on the recycling industry than any other invention – as letters were melted down every few days.

4

The Hanging Gardens of Babylon were built around 600BC on terraces, the base of which was often covered with sheets of reclaimed lead soldered with tin.

7

Some of the Seven Wonders of the World are made partly or entirely from Seventh Resource (recycled) materials.

6

References to the recycling of metal have been discovered on clay tablets in Mesopotamia and on inscriptions in Egypt.

5

The blocks used to build the pyramids of Egypt around 2550BC were cut using chisels made of copper hardened by beating. These were handed in every day for hardening and regrinding; once they became too short, they were re-melted.