

Reduce, Reuse & Recycle

Month: Apr.

Week #: 31

Day: b. Tues. Time: 20 min.

A Virtual Trip to the Dump

Life Tree Learning Systems ©

Objectives/Aims

The students will: become aware of the amount of 'garbage' Americans create; be able to name the types of natural resources that become garbage.

Materials

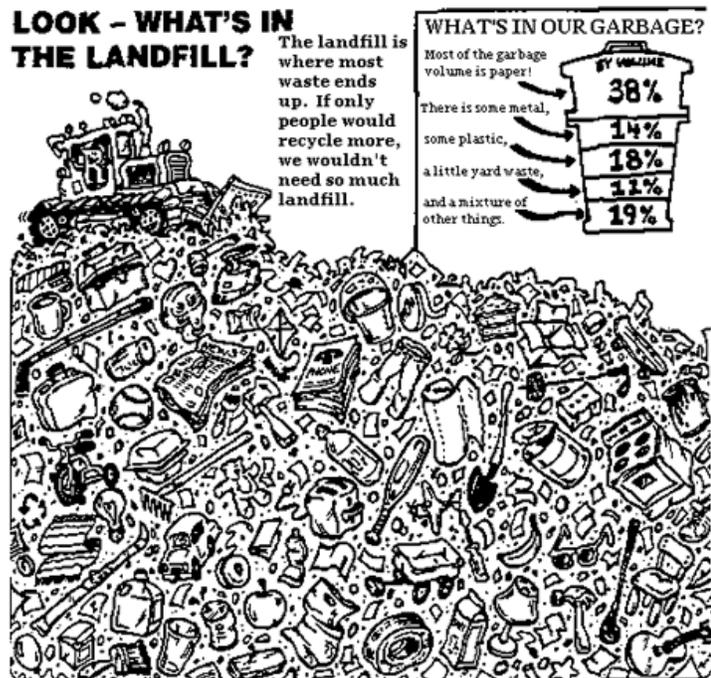
pictures or video clips of a landfill, see 'Computer Generated' for pictures, youtube.com for clips

Illustration

What a pile of trash! Or is it a pile of wasted resources?

Background

Americans consume more natural resources per capita than any other nation in the world. Once we're done 'using' something, we traditionally 'throw it away' with little or no thought given to the consequences of our action. What are the potential consequences? Land and water pollution resulting in million dollar 'Superfund' sites; wasted, nonrenewable resources; higher costs for the products we buy and greater health risks and costs. The 'throw it away' attitude is no longer acceptable in our society.



Group Activity

1. Ask the students the following questions:

"When we're, meaning you and I, are done using something or no longer want it, where do we put it?" A: *In the trash can, compost or recycling bin.* "When the trash can is full, where do we take it?" A: *To the dumpster.* "The next question is where we left off yesterday. When the dumpster is full, where is it taken?" A: *To the dump.*

2. Say, "Look closely at the following pictures / video clip. As you look at them / it, imagine that you are actually there. What do you see... and smell? What do you see being thrown away?" Show either the pictures or video clips of the landfill. The clip on youtube.com called, 'Bowerman Landfill, Irvine CA Tour' (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_9kBDi2PN9M&feature=related) is an excellent tour of a landfill given by an actual landfill worker.

Group Discussion Questions

1. What did you see at the landfill?

A: Paper blowing around, garbage, seagulls, big machines, etc.

2. How do you think it smells?

A: Due to the rotting garbage and the blowing dirt landfills are smelly and dusty places.

Group Discussion Questions (continued)

3. Who creates all of this trash?

A: You and I.

4. Would you want a dump in your backyard?

A: Nobody does! This is called, *NIMBY*, or *not in my backyard*.

5. So where are we going to put our garbage?

A: Hopefully in the recycling container or compost.

6. What kinds of things are thrown away and what natural resources are they made out of?

A: Paper - trees, cans - metal, bottles - glass, computers - many things including toxic materials, etc.

7. What else did these pictures / video clip teach you?

A: Answers will vary.

Variations/Extensions

1. Actually take a trip to a landfill or recycling center. Both are truly memorable experiences.

2. Visit <http://techalive.mtu.edu/meec/module15/Landfills.htm> on the internet to see how a landfill works.

Conclusion

Say, "Nobody wants a dump in their backyard. It's a dirty, smelly place! And just think of all of those natural resources being wasted! And where does that garbage come from? From you and I, that's where! So when you clean up and dispose of those paper scraps after creating an art project, you can make a difference... Do you put them in the waste basket or the recycling bin? When you pack your lunches each day do you choose recyclable containers, reusable containers or choose packing materials that will end up in the landfill? Say, that reminds me, tomorrow we will be looking for both the 'perfect' and the 'perfect, perfect' lunch. Don't know what that means? Stay tuned in tomorrow, same time, same station and you'll find out!"

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