

The Landfill Link
Pre-Visit Lesson #1

THE AFTERLIFE OF YOUR PB&J

GOALS

1. To introduce the basic principles of waste management.
2. To encourage students to consider what happens to their refuse once it leaves their possession.

MATERIALS

1. Drawing and writing paper
2. Pencils, pens and markers
3. Fact sheets provided in this kit

PROCEDURE

1. Overview of trash:
 - A. What do we generate as individuals?
 - B. What do we generate as communities? Do they differ?
 - C. Where does trash go? (DOS, landfill)
 - D. What happens to the trash when it gets to the landfill?
2. Overview of decomposition.
3. Consult Department of Sanitation fact sheet to bring out startling information about how long it takes for items to break down. Go for the really shocking ones! Have fun!
4. Encourage a conversation about the trash the class generated today, round-robin style.
5. Record students' responses in categories: things they ate, things they used.
6. Have students select one thing they disposed of today.
7. Encourage students to write/draw about the "afterlife" of this particular item. Where did this item go? What happened to it once it got there? Was it alone? Stress creativity while grounding with basic facts.
8. Display art/writing around the classroom.

EVALUATION

1. To what extent were the students able to understand the impact of the trash they generate as individuals and as a community?
2. How did the students represent the lifespan of their decomposing trash? Did they grasp that a potato chip bag will take much longer to break down than the crusts on their sandwich? Is that evident in their story telling?

NY STANDARDS:

M/S/T: 1, 6

ELA: 1, 4

ART: 1