

The Landfill Link

Pre-Visit Lesson #2

Should be done in tandem, within the same week

BUILD A WASTE MANAGEMENT SITE

GOALS

- a) To bring awareness to the types of trash we generate and its volume.
- b) To note the physical properties of the refuse and consider how it can be properly disposed of.

MATERIALS

1. Day 1 & 2: 1 garbage pail labeled trash
2. 4 garbage pails for recycling, labeled metal, paper, plastic, food
3. Scale (household variety or one sturdy enough to handle 20+lbs)
4. Notebook for recording data
5. Leftovers and trash from lunches

Note: Prior to the lessons, instruct students not to throw out any trash or leftovers at lunch. They are to return to the classroom with them.

PHASE #1 PROCEDURE, DAY 1

1. Display photos of landfill.
2. Initiate conversation about types of trash and who generates it.
3. Invite students to bring their lunch boxes to “lunch trash” bin and empty the contents.
4. Set up “weigh station” (trash bin, scale and notebook).
5. Designate “weighers” and a “recorder”.
6. Have “weighers” weigh respective bins and report the weight to the “recorder”.
7. Note the weight of the garbage on chart provided. Was it surprising?
8. Discuss findings.

PHASE #2 PROCEDURE, DAY 2

1. Set up recycling bins noted in materials list. Please see Department of Sanitation guidelines provided.
2. Review recycling guidelines with class. Instruct them to put their trash for the day in the appropriate bins.
3. Invite students to bring their lunch boxes to “lunch trash” bin and empty the contents.
4. Set up “weigh station” (all bins, scale and notebook).
5. Select new “weighers” and a “recorder”.
6. Have “weighers” weigh respective bins and report the weight to the “recorder”.
7. Note the weight of the garbage on chart provided. Was it surprising?
8. Compare the findings of the two days.
9. Review the function of recycling.
10. Encourage students to share their thoughts on what will happen to the regular trash vs. the recycled trash.

EVALUATION

1. To what extent were the students able to see the value of recycling?
2. How did they articulate their opinions on recycling?
3. What alternate ideas for recycling, if any, were they able to put forth?

NY STANDARDS:

M/S/T: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6

ELA: 1

CAREER DEVELOPMENT: 2, 3a