

What Happens to Trash?



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4. What are some ways that people get rid of trash?

People get rid of trash by burning it, throwing it away (goes to landfills), or recycling it.

5. What does it mean to recycle something? What is the difference between reducing, reusing, and recycling?

Recycling means to take a material and make another product out of that same material.

To **reduce** something means to use less of it, like only one squirt of soap instead of several.

To **reuse** something means to use it again for the same purpose, like buying a water bottle and filling it, cleaning it, and filling it again.

An example of **recycling** is old tires are cleaned and chopped up into small pieces to use as flooring in inflatable sports domes.

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Vocabulary - to be added to student's glossary in the back of their notebook.

Trash/Waste - any material that is not wanted anymore, not useful

Landfill - a specially designed site used for the disposal of waste

Decompose - break down into simpler materials

Reduce - to use less material or to choose one with less packaging

Reuse - to use again, without transformation into a new product

Recycle - to turn used materials into new products again

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Type of material	Quantity Number of items	How could these items be reused or recycled?
plastic	28	Wash & reuse plastic bags & water bottles. Use the plastic for crafts.
glass	0	
metal	0	
paper	24	Cut off unused paper & write on it. Use both sides of writing paper. Use it for labels & scrap. Recycle it. & crafts - origami.
other types of trash	13	pencils - use all of the pencils pipe cleaners - clean off & make crafts

2. What type of trash did your classroom produce the most of?

Our class produced 28 pieces of plastic.

3. What type of trash did your classroom produce the least of?

Our class produced No glass or metal.

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Explain pages 31-32

1. How could your class reduce the amount of trash it produces?

Recycle the paper & the plastic. Find ways to reuse. Put snacks & lunches in lunch boxes & washable containers so you have nothing to throw away.

2. What ways can you think of to make packaging less wasteful?

Reuse packaging - box of chocolates have plastic cups - use to store & sort beads. Order less online & buy from your local store. Buy large containers of products.

3. What did the activities and readings in this lesson help you to understand about what happens to your trash? (What have you learned?)

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1. Think of something that decomposes. Describe what it means for that item to decompose.

A sock left outside will decompose. Which means it will go back to dirt. It will start to breakdown, decay, rot, gets soft & moldy. It will become simpler materials.

2. What happens to trash in a landfill?

The trash eventually breaks down. The garbage is piled up, smashed together, covered in dirt & decomposes. Things rot slower. Some things don't decompose - styrofoam, plastic, glass...

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3. Which of the three R's of recycling (reduce, reuse, recycle) uses the least amount of resources? Explain your ideas.

Student responses:

Reuse uses less resources than recycling because recycling uses trucks, machines, and energy. When we reuse we don't change the product. We refill it, or use a few resources to fix it or change it a bit.

When we reduce we use less resources because we use less product to start with and don't make as much waste to take care of.

4. Describe ways that you could reuse an item at home that you usually put in the trash. Make a bird feeder out of a drink container. Make a pet toy out of an old t-shirt. Turn an old t-shirt into dust rags.

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