

What Happens to Garbage?

Standards

Science (K-3): Science as Inquiry 1, 2, 3, 4; Properties and Structure of Materials 1; Interactions with the World Around Us 3; Technology and Its Influence on the Environment 1

Language Arts: 1

Social Studies: Civics 3, 4; Economics 3, 4

Skills

Predicting, recording data, observing, discussing in groups, reporting to class.

Integrated Skills

Social Studies, Language Arts.

Purpose

The students will identify types of trash and discuss the best waste management system for each.

The students will review recyclable and non-recyclable items in the waste stream.

Background

The students will review known methods of waste management. Accept all suggestions for waste management at this time.

What you need:

Student log sheet

Pencils

What You do:

Brainstorm ideas with the students. Ask what kinds of trash might be able to be recycled, taken to the landfill, re-used, burned, and composted. Record lists under their categories. At this time accept any suggestions the children can justify. Ask if all this trash could present any problems. If so, what kinds of problems? List all of their ideas.

Assessment

The students will have developed a list of waste management systems and items managed in each in their science log.

Extension

Have students visit a local or school library to generate a “solid waste library” for reference in the classroom. Mini book reviews could be given orally to add information to their science logs. The books could also help justify student ideas.

