

Sort and Sift

Grade

1

Topic: Waste
Grade: 1
Duration: 30 – 45 minutes

Students will graph the different types of waste from one day's garbage in their class.

Curriculum Expectations

- 1s40: Identify materials that can be used to join and fasten other materials
- 1s42: Recognize that objects made of certain materials can be recycled
- 1e4: Produce short pieces of writing using simple forms
- 1e42: Ask questions about their immediate environment and offer personal opinions
- 1m42: Compare two objects and identify similarities and differences
- 1m95: Conduct an inquiry using appropriate methods
- 1m96: Pose questions about data gathered
- 1m97: Compare, sort, and classify concrete objects according to a specific attribute
- 1m99: Generate yes/no questions for a given topic
- 1m103: Organize materials on concrete graphs and pictographs using one-to-one correspondence

Background Information

Depending on your district school board's recycling contract, schools may require students to take items home for recycling to save tipping fees.

Accountability

Teachers, parents, and students will increase their awareness of what can be recycled. Students will become more accountable for their ability to make choices as to where their waste goes.

Teacher Notes

1. Take the garbage from an average day. Try to ensure the waste from lunch saved and include in the garbage.
2. Either outside on a nice day (with no wind) or inside on a plastic tarp, sort the garbage into what could be recycled, composted and garbage to be thrown away. Is there any garbage at school that could be recycled at home?
3. Count the number of pieces and record to make a graph.
4. Sort garbage again for what could be recycled, composted and what is actual garbage at the school. Is there any garbage at school that could be recycled at home?
5. Count the number of pieces in these categories and make another graph.
6. As a class discuss what they learned about their waste tally. In their science journals they can draw or write about how they can change how much garbage they have.
7. If at a later date you revisit this idea - repeat the process and see if their habits about tossing garbage have changed.

Home Extension

Have a tour of where garbage goes in every room of the house and what is done with it before it gets to the curb. Students may see ways to be “sorter and sifter” for the family and help with the recycling for the household. Have parents report on progress the students are making at home.

Lesson Comments

What similarities did your students find at school and home?

What type of garbage surprised you most?

Once students were aware of what they tossed, did they change their habits?