

GRADE 1 LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Waste Comes Alive

Summary

Students collect waste items from school and make them “come alive.” Students will develop a creative biography for their garbage buddy, and learn what the item can be recycled into after it is collected.

Objective

Students will think critically about the disposal of everyday items. The activities will promote proper waste sorting habits by engaging and educating students about what happens after items are collected.

Pre-Activity

WHERE DOES WASTE GO?

DIRECTIONS

CLASS DISCUSSION

Explain that there are five types of waste that need to be sorted at school and at home. As a class, name the five categories of waste:

PAPER RECYCLABLES REFUNDABLES ORGANICS GARBAGE

For more information, refer to the Divert NS **Sorting Guide for Schools** divertns.ca/resources/brochures-guides

GROUPS

Break the students into five groups and assign each group one waste category. Each group will guess what types of materials belong in their category. Ask them to predict what happens with the material in their category once it has been sorted.

Each group can discuss the following questions:

- Do the items go to the curb or get dropped off somewhere else?
- What type of facility receives the material (e.g. landfill, ENVIRO-DEPOT™)?
- Where is this facility located in their community?
 - Have any of the students visited this facility?
 - What processes and equipment are used at this facility?

MATERIALS

Whiteboard and markers

DURATION

10 mins

DURATION

20 mins

MAIN LEARNING OUTCOME

GRADE:

1

SUBJECTS:

Science



Outcome 4

Students will construct objects that might be used from chosen materials and living things.

Indicators

- ask questions about how to construct objects
- choose materials to construct an object
- compare objects and the materials used to construct them

CROSS-CURRICULAR LINKS

English Language Arts



Outcome 1

Students will communicate effectively and clearly and respond personally and critically.

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WHERE DOES WASTE GO? (cont'd)

DIRECTIONS

ANSWERS TO PRE-ACTIVITY QUESTIONS

GARBAGE	Curbside collection, landfill facility – Material is buried
PAPER	Curbside collection, recycling facility – Products are sorted by workers into different categories of paper (cardboard, boxboard, newspaper, etc).
RECYCLABLES	Curbside collection, recycling facility – Products are sorted by workers into different categories of recyclables (plastic, metal, glass, etc).
ORGANICS	Curbside collection, composting facility – Food and yard waste is shredded and composted
REFUNDABLES	Drop off at ENVIRO-DEPOT™ – Products are sorted by workers into plastic, glass, aluminum, etc.

MATERIALS

Internet access

DURATION

20 mins

Do an internet search to find out where the waste management facilities are located in your community.

Activity

GARBAGE BUDDY BIOGRAPHIES

DIRECTIONS

CRAFT TIME

Explain that to help learn the importance of recycling, students will create new friends out of waste items and bring them to life.

Provide a waste item to each student in the class. The items should be clean and dry and have a flat surface for attaching googly-eyes.

- *Examples: pop or water bottle, paper towel roll, tin can, milk carton, cracker box*

Students will attach pipe cleaners and googly eyes to create a garbage buddy.

Ask students to name their new garbage buddies.

MATERIALS

Waste items, pipe cleaners, googly eyes, markers, glue/tape and scissors

DURATION

10 mins

BIOGRAPHIES

Each student (or pair of students) will create a life story for their new garbage buddy.

Explain that when a life story is written down, it is called a "biography." Since students will be writing their garbage buddy's life story down on paper, they will be writing biographies.

- *Students can use the Biography Blitz worksheet (Appendix 3) as a template for their story.*

MATERIALS

Appendix 2
Biography Blitz
worksheet

DURATION

20 mins

GARBAGE BUDDY BIOGRAPHIES (cont'd)

DIRECTIONS

Here is a sample story outline:

- The first part of the life story can be fun and imaginative.
Example: The pop can was bought by Billy's mom at _____ store, and then Billy drank it at _____ Elementary School, and put in the recycling bin.
- The second part of the story will be based on what actually happens to the waste item after it is picked up by the collection truck or dropped at the ENVIRO-DEPOT™ (e.g. goes to a recycling plant).
- The end of the story will explore what their garbage buddy gets turned into (e.g. new pop bottle, carpet, egg carton)

Print the **What is it Made Into Chart (Appendix 2)** and circulate among the students to help them figure out what their item will become once it is recycled. If the student's item is not on the chart, research it on the internet.

Post-Activity

SHARING BIOGRAPHIES

DIRECTIONS

Ask students to draw a picture of their garbage buddy's biography.

Pair students and have them share their story and pictures with their classmate.

Assessment

FORMATIVE Evaluate student learning by observing them during the group discussion and writing activity.

SUMMATIVE (OPTIONAL) Collect and evaluate the Garbage Buddy Biography pictures.

MATERIALS

Appendix 1:
What is it
Made Into?
chart



WASTE REDUCTION EDUCATORS

Divert NS provides funding to municipalities to deliver waste reduction education to schools across the province.

Your local waste reduction educator(s) provides the following services, and more, free of charge!

- classroom presentations
- green team set up
- advice on bins and signage
- tours of local waste facilities
- school waste audits

To find out more, visit divertns.ca

MATERIALS

Scrap paper

DURATION

20 min

ABOUT DIVERT NS

Divert NS is a not-for-profit organization championing recycling in Nova Scotia. For over 20 years we've helped build a culture of recycling through environmental stewardship, education, and innovation. Divert NS operates the **Beverage Container Deposit-Refund Program** and the **Used Tire Management Program**. In addition, we work in collaboration with government,

industry, and academia to divert waste-resources from landfill. Divert NS, in partnership with municipalities, delivers education and awareness programs to schools, businesses, and community groups. Divert NS also works to develop stewardship agreements and funds innovative research and development initiatives.

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What is it Made into?

Print or project this chart for the class.

Recyclable Item	What it can be turned into
Pop Can	New pop can, bicycle parts
Juice Box	Paper towel, plastic pellets
Plastic bag	New plastic bags, plastic containers
Cracker box	New boxes
Water/juice bottle	New plastic bottles, clothing, carpet, stuffing for sleeping bags
Milk Carton	Cardboard, toilet paper
Newspaper	Carry out trays, egg cartons
Tin can	New tin can, bicycle parts
Looseleaf paper	Newspaper, toilet paper, boxboard or cereal or cracker boxes

Biography Blitz Worksheet

I have a "Garbage Buddy." His/her name is _____.

He/she was bought at _____.

He/she was brought to _____
(NAME OF SCHOOL)

Elementary School by _____ and put into
(NAME OF CLASSMATE)

the recycling bin.

When the recycling truck picks up _____
(NAME OF RECYCLABLE MATERIAL)

my buddy will be taken to _____
(NAME OF CLOSEST RECYCLING DEPOT)

and turned into a _____.

It is a good thing _____
(BUDDY'S NAME)

will get recycled, otherwise he/she would end up in

_____ landfill near here, in _____.
(NAME OF NEAREST LANDFILL) (LOCATION OF LANDFILL)