

## “What’s in Your Trash?”

### ***What is My Challenge?***

Find out what the people in your house throw away in the garbage.

How much of it can be recycled or reused?

How can you get your family to throw away less trash?



### ***What Will I Need?***

Your garbage! Gloves if you want as you go through the garbage; paper to record what is in the garbage; a scale to weigh your garbage (optional)

### ***How Should I Do It?***

Have a piece of paper and pen or pencil ready to record your information.

- 1). Find a spot (probably outdoors) to empty your trash out on a surface (grass, driveway, patio, tarp).
- 2). Estimate how many pieces of garbage you see. Estimate how many pounds this garbage would weigh. Record your data.
- 3). If you are weighing your garbage, weigh it. Record the amount. How close were you to your estimate?
- 4). Record the types of garbage that your family is throwing away. You can list the items or sort them. Ideas include sorting by food vs. non-food; type of material (paper, plastic, metal).
- 5). Later, you can create a graph of the items that you sorted.
- 6). Are there any items that are in your garbage that can be recycled? If you don't know, do some research to find out. If you find some items that can be recycled, recycle them!
- 7). Return it all to your garbage can. Wash your hands!
- 8). Share your findings with at least one other person in your family. Discuss how you can throw away less things each day.

## Grades 3-5 Activities

### ***About How Long Will It Take Me?***

This activity can take between 30 minutes to an hour. You can examine the garbage for one day, over the course of a few days, or for a week.

### ***Mix It Up!***

- Read more about solid waste:

<https://archive.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/web/html/>

<http://css.umich.edu/factsheets/municipal-solid-waste-factsheet>

- Teach others about reducing, reusing, and

<https://www.epa.gov/recycle>

<https://kids.niehs.nih.gov/topics/reduce/index.htm>

- Start composting at your house!

<https://kids.kiddle.co/Compost>

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/special/children/composting-ideas-for-kids.htm>

<https://www.anoffgridlife.com/teach-kids-to-compost/>



recycling waste.



### ***You Be the Judge!***

Does your family create a lot of trash? Do they recycle enough? Could they recycle or reuse more of the things they throw away? How could you help to reduce, reuse, and recycle more in your house?

### ***Design Team Members:***

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