



Types of Waste*

Activity E.c

GRADE LEVEL: 4 - 6

OBJECTIVE: To identify the many different types of waste.

VOCABULARY: metal, plastic, paper, cardboard, glass, aluminum, tin, steel

MATERIALS: magnet, different kind of clean trash

PROCEDURE: Have each child bring in one or two examples of waste from his or her home. (Ask children to be sure the waste has been cleaned as much as possible before bringing it in.) You may wish to bring in some examples, as well. The collection should include plastic, paper, cardboard, different types of cans, and glass. (It may be inappropriate for very young children to be collecting or handling glass.)

Label boxes or piles at the front of the classroom and have the children sort the waste into categories such as paper waste, metal, glass, and plastic. They should manipulate it as much as possible to feel the different textures and shapes.

Have the children determine which objects are attracted to a magnet. Explain to children that aluminum cans are not magnetic. Tin and steel cans will be attracted to a magnet.

Have the younger children trace outlines of the objects and make pictures of them to color. What are their shapes?

Older children might like to try making animals or useful objects out of the waste that has been collected. For example, children could decorate cans to use as pencil holders or make plastic containers or cartons into planters. At the conclusion of the activity, help children to understand that they have found one constructive way to use waste.

* Adapted from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Let's Reduce and Recycle: Curriculum for Solid Waste Awareness