



# Integrated Solid Waste Management\*

Activity M.w

GRADE LEVELS: 7 - 8

## OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this lesson, students will be expected to be able to describe the EPA's approach to integrated solid waste management.

## OVERVIEW:

This lesson discusses the EPA's integrated approach to managing solid waste. It should be presented to your students as a framework to use when thinking about solid waste management and solid waste issues.

## PROCEDURE:

Distribute and discuss Student Handout 1. Then distribute Student Handout 2. Have your students develop graphic symbols for each of the five aspects of the EPA's approach that are described in Student Handout 1: source, reduction, recycling, composting, waste-to-energy incineration, and landfilling. For example, a student might represent composting with a leaf symbol, waste-to-energy with a flame, etc. This is a chance for your students to bring graphic creativity to the learning process.

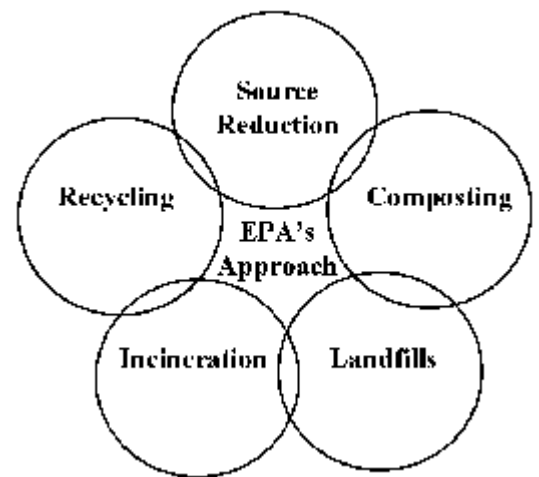
## EXTENSIONS:

### Solid Waste Management in the Workplace

If you want to bring the EPA's approach to life, encourage your students to ask their parents what they are doing at work that demonstrates integrated waste management in action. Many businesses today are recycling all their waste paper or the plastic scrap generated on the manufacturing floor. Some even have built waste-to-energy incinerators. Suggest to your students that they use Student Handout 2, "The EPA Approach to Solid Waste Management" to guide them as they ask questions.

### A Panel of Experts

Invite a panel of local business people and government officials to address your class on how the EPA's approach applies to your town or city's method of disposing of trash. Alternatively, arrange for a field trip for your class to local industrial sites for a tour of waste management facilities. Student Handout 2 can be used to guide discussion after these activities as well.



\*Source: Kraft General Food Environmental Institute Solid Thinking About Solid Waste