



## What Is Waste And Where Does It Come From?\*

Activity P.a/E.a

GRADE LEVELS: K-6

OBJECTIVE: To define waste and discuss where it comes from.

VOCABULARY: waste, garbage, landfill, combustor

MATERIALS: magazines, scissors, other materials needed for making a collage

PROCEDURE:

To lead into this activity, initiate a discussion based on the following questions:

- Who knows what waste or garbage is?
- What are some other names we have for waste?
- Where do we put our classroom waste?

Have children cut out pictures from magazines of things that could be thrown out when they are used up or no longer needed and create a montage. You may want to have the entire class create one giant montage. Then discuss with children where all of this trash might go:

- What happens to our waste when it leaves the school?
- What kinds of waste do we throw away at home? (Write them on the blackboard.)
- Where does it go?
- Has anyone ever seen a big landfill or combustor? (Explain that a landfill is a place where garbage is buried and a combustor is a place where garbage is burned. Activity P.s/E.bb describes combustors in more detail.)

A follow-up activity might be to have the children draw their impressions of a landfill. The children could go on a field trip to a sanitary landfill or study magazine or newspaper photos, then draw or write their reactions.

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