



4 CORNERS OF TRASH

LESSON PLAN

Description:

Not all trash goes into the landfill. Students should be able to recognize that trash can be separated into 4 different groups. When the students can identify the different groups they see that there is less trash in the landfill.

Background:

Trash: discarded or useless material. **Compost:** a mixture of various decaying organic substances, such as dead leaves or manure, used for fertilizing soil. **Recycle:** the process of converting waste materials into new materials and objects (i.e., glass bottles are melted and formed to create new glass bottles). **Reuse:** use again or more than once.

[13 Tips on Sorting Waste, How to Recycle More Efficiently](#) by Mariana Della Barba - Not all that we put in the trash belongs there. We can sort our trash into different bins to make our trash pile smaller.

<https://believe.earth/en/13-tips-on-sorting-waste/>

Once trash leaves our house or school it goes many different places.

https://www.wm.com/about/community/pdfs/follow_the_waste_stream.pdf

Materials List:

- Open Space (students should be able to move around safely)
- 4 Labeled Corners (provided below)



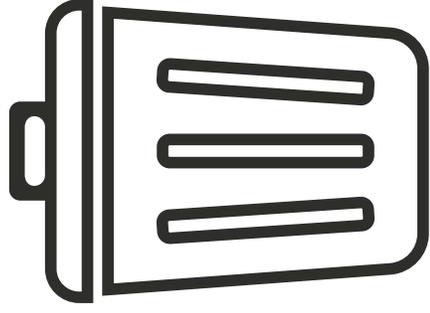
Time: 20 min

Instructions:

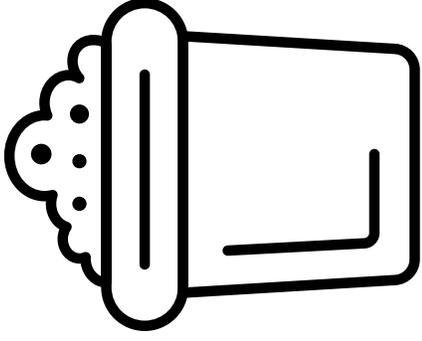
1. Hang the 4 labels in the 4 corners of your classroom.
2. Gather students into the middle of the classroom and point out the 4 different corners (trash, recycle, compost, reuse).
3. Have the students explain what each corner represents.
4. Pick one student to stand in the middle of the room with his or her eyes closed. This student will count 20 seconds.
5. The rest of the students will choose a corner and safely move to it as the time is counted. Students may choose different corners. When the 20 second count is up, the students must stay in their chosen corner.
6. The student in the middle, without opening his or her eyes, will pick a corner (trash, recycle, compost, reuse) and say its name out loud.
7. The students in the corner that was named must now sit out.
8. Student in the middle will begin counting again and repeat steps 4-6 until 1 student is left. The final student now becomes the counter and the game starts over again.

Table Talk:

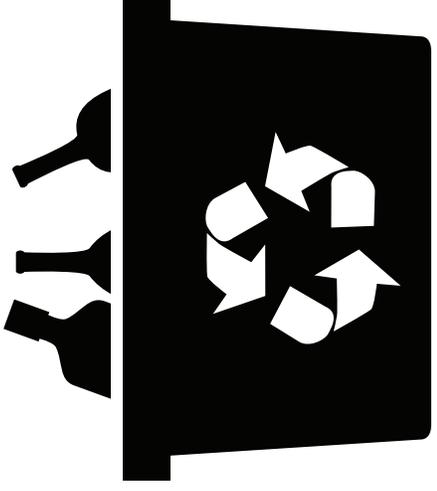
- What happens when we separate our trash?
- What do you think will happen when we run out of space in the landfill?
- How can we make sure we have less trash?



TRASH



COMPOST



RECYCLE



REUSE