



Garbage: Follow the Path of Your Trash With Environmental Science Activities for Kids

Written by Donna Latham Illustrated by Tom Casteel

Garbage: Follow the Path of Your Trash shows students the impact of garbage on the environment and how daily choices have a huge impact on our planet. This book is full of hands-on activities to inspire students.

READ

Before: Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *what do you think this story is about?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an “I wonder” statement based on the cover illustration.

I wonder what that sculpture is made of?

During: Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out “rare words” (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words

- incinerators – large furnaces that burn trash
- waste – materials that are not wanted
- landfill – a huge area of land where trash gets buried
- scavenge – to find usable bits and parts from discarded stuff
- source reduction – decreasing the quantity of waste, especially in packaging
- compostable – material that can break down or rot in a compost heap
- preventative – stopping something before it happens
- decomposer – bacteria, fungi and worms that break down wastes, dead plants and animals

After: Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Where does your garbage go when it leaves your hands?
- How can you reduce, reuse and recycle garbage?
- What are some commonly recycled items?
- How much trash does the average American produce in one day? How much trash does that add up to in a year?
- What do food scraps and yard trimmings become?
- What does decay become and what are some uses for it?
- What are some examples of organic waste?
- What are some examples of inorganic waste?
- What is the closed-loop life cycle and does it end?
- What is precycling? Do you precycle?



DO

Clean up your neighborhood and ask others to join you! Put on your gloves and tennis shoes and go plogging.

Pick an activity mentioned in *Garbage: Follow the Path of Your Trash* and find items you can reuse to create something useful.

