

Where Garbage Goes

Most of the things around you will be replaced or thrown away someday. Skates, clothes, the toaster, furniture—they can break or wear out, or you may get tired of them. Where will they go when they are thrown out? What kinds of waste will they create, and how will it affect the environment?

What Happens to Things We Throw Away?

LANDFILLS

Most of our trash goes to places called landfills. A **LANDFILL** (or dump) is a low area of land that is filled with garbage. Most modern landfills are lined with a layer of plastic or clay to try to keep dangerous liquids from seeping into the soil and ground water supply.

THE PROBLEM WITH LANDFILLS

More than half of the states in this country are running out of places to dump their garbage. Because of the unhealthful materials many contain, landfills do not make good neighbors, and people don't want to live near them. Many landfills are located in poor neighborhoods. But where can cities dispose of their waste? How can hazardous waste—material that can poison air, land, and water—be disposed of in a safe way?

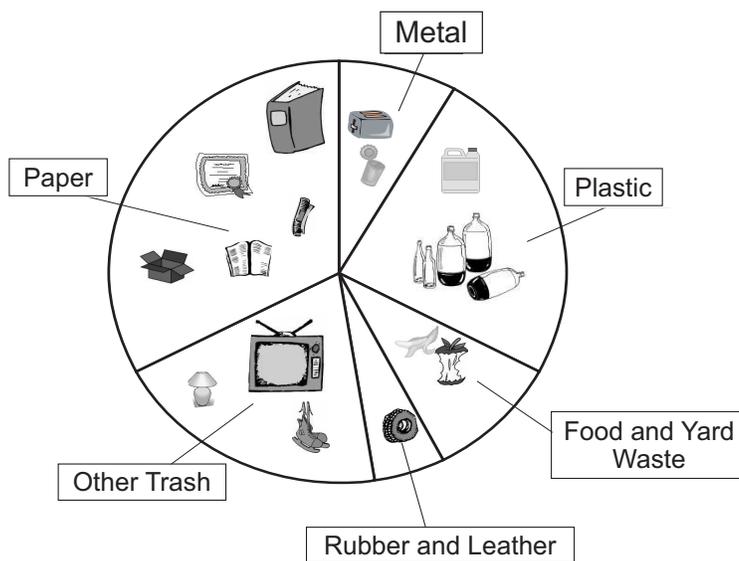
INCINERATORS

One way to get rid of trash is to burn it. Trash is burned in a furnace-like device called an incinerator. Because incinerators can get rid of almost all of the bulk of the trash, some communities would rather use incinerators than landfills.

THE PROBLEM WITH INCINERATORS

Leftover ash and smoke from burning trash may contain harmful chemicals, called pollutants, and make it hard for some people to breathe. They can harm plants, animals, and people.

Look at What is Now in U.S. Landfills



DID YOU KNOW?

The Fresh Kills landfill on Staten Island, New York, was the largest garbage dump in the world. For years, people who live nearby complained about air and water pollution caused by the massive pile of trash. They say that the fumes have made people sick. The dump closed in April 2001. Now New York City's garbage is trucked out of state.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

You can help reduce waste by reusing containers, batteries, and paper. You can also recycle newspaper, glass, and plastics to provide materials for making other products. At right are some of the things you can do.

What Is Made from Recycled Materials?

- From **RECYCLED PAPER** we get newspapers, cereal boxes, wrapping paper, cardboard containers, and insulation.
- From **RECYCLED PLASTIC** we get soda bottles, tables, benches, bicycle racks, cameras, backpacks, carpeting, shoes, and clothes.
- From **RECYCLED STEEL** we get steel cans, cars, bicycles, nails, and refrigerators.
- From **RECYCLED GLASS** we get glass jars and tiles.
- From **RECYCLED RUBBER** we get bulletin boards, floor tiles, playground equipment, and speed bumps.

	To Reduce Waste	To Recycle
Paper	Use both sides of the paper. Use cloth towels instead of paper towels.	Recycle newspapers, magazines, comic books, catalogs, cardboard, and junk mail.
Plastic	Wash food containers and store leftovers in them. Reuse plastic bags.	Return soda bottles to the store. Recycle other plastics.
Glass	Keep glass bottles and jars to store other things.	Recycle glass bottles and jars.
Clothes	Give clothes to younger relatives or friends. Donate clothes to thrift shops.	Cut unwearable clothing into rags to use instead of paper towels.
Metal	Keep leftovers in storage containers instead of wrapping them in foil. Use glass or stainless steel pans instead of disposable pans.	Recycle aluminum cans and foil trays. Return wire hangers to the dry cleaners.
Food/Yard Waste	Cut the amount of food you throw out. Try saving leftovers for snacks or meals later on.	Make a compost heap using food scraps, leaves, grass clippings, and the like.
Batteries	Use rechargeable batteries for toys and games, radios, tape players, and flashlights.	Find out about your town's rules for recycling or disposing of batteries.

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1. At the end of the first paragraph, what is the **most likely** reason the author asks two questions?
- A to encourage readers to ask a teacher to help find the answer
 - B to show readers that the author does not know the answer
 - C to keep readers interested in continuing to read the article
 - D to warn readers about the dangers of burning garbage
2. What is the **main** purpose of the section titled “What Happens to Things We Throw Away”?
- A to explain the different ways dangerous liquids and harmful chemicals can be destroyed
 - B to explain that the best way to get rid of trash is to burn it in incinerators
 - C to describe the difficulty in finding good places in this country to dump garbage
 - D to describe the good and bad results of the ways waste materials are disposed of
3. According to the diagram “Look at What Is Now in U.S. Landfills,” which material takes up the most space in America’s landfills?
- A glass
 - B paper
 - C plastic
 - D steel
4. What is the **main** way in which landfills can harm people?
- A Landfills contain unhealthful materials.
 - B Most landfills are lined with plastic or clay.
 - C Landfills make the air smell bad.
 - D Smoke from landfills is harmful to breathe.

5. Why is information about the New York City garbage dump included in the selection?
- A to emphasize why landfills are better to use than incinerators
 - B to show how other cities should solve their garbage problems
 - C to show that New York City has the largest garbage dump in the world
 - D to emphasize the problems caused by disposing of large amounts of garbage in landfills
6. What question does the section titled “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” answer?
- A Which recycling center is easiest to operate?
 - B What type of food should people save for leftovers?
 - C What can people do to help reduce waste?
 - D How is a compost heap built?

7. By bringing leftover food for school lunch, how does a student help the environment?
- A by recycling food waste
 - B by reducing food waste
 - C by recycling metal waste
 - D by reducing plastic waste

End of Set

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EOG Grade 5 Reading Sample Items

Selection Title	Question Number	Correct Answer	Thinking Skill	Objective Number
Where Garbage Goes	1	C	Applying	2.02
Where Garbage Goes	2	D	Integrating	2.04
Where Garbage Goes	3	B	Organizing	3.03
Where Garbage Goes	4	A	Analyzing	2.04
Where Garbage Goes	5	D	Generating	2.05
Where Garbage Goes	6	C	Organizing	2.02
Where Garbage Goes	7	B	Applying	2.05