

# Don't Waste Your Waste

**Objective:** Students understand solid waste problem and learn about recycling

**Materials:**

Bags for trash

Gloves

Recyclable items: newspaper, paper, plastics, aluminum, and glass bottles

## **15 minutes: An Introduction to Solid Waste Problem**

The United States is known as a throwaway society.

### **Why do you think our country is called this?**

The average American throws away more than five lbs of garbage a day.

If there were four people in your family, this is about as big as a potato bag.

Due to volume of garbage landfills are overflowing and closing. The enormous volume of waste is causing other serious problems. Burning trash can pollute the air and leave contaminated ash. The trash dumped in the ocean, lakes and rivers, and on land is marring the land shapes, trapping wildlife and contaminating water supplies. We are also wasting valuable resources and energy by tossing away aluminum cans, plastics and glass bottles, newspapers, wood and grasses.

## **20 minutes: Identify the types of materials the group throws away daily.**

- Observe what types of material are in the garbage. Can any of the material be recycled?
- What can you do to make sure you conserve energy?
- Discuss ideas to conserve energy. Ex: shorter showers, turn down heat or AC

## **15 minutes: Recycle relay**

- Split the group into two teams
- Put the materials in between the two lines and have bins/bags labeled plastics, paper, and glass
- Team who gets all their items down and in the bins the quickest wins