

Teacher's Section

(Answer Key & Discussion Topics)

Most of the thought questions and debate topics are designed to inspire brain storming, creative problem solving, and working together in groups. There are really no right or wrong answers. Teachers should serve as moderators for this process to help guide students to get the most out of the activities. In some cases, a more specific answer may be required or a few suggestions may be needed to get the ball rolling. Below are some suggested answers, but these are not meant to be comprehensive, rather they are a place to start.

Landfill Activity & Coloring Sheet

Question 3. Do you know why the bulldozer covers the trash with soil called daily cover?

Garbage is periodically covered with 12" of soil to reduce odors, keep litter from scattering, reduce pest populations like flies and rodents (to prevent the spread of diseases), absorb gasses and help prevent fires, reduce groundwater contamination, improve the public perception of landfills, and help deter scavengers.

Recycling Statistics

What has Kaua'i done to reduce the number of plastic bags that end up in the ocean?

In October of 2009, the Kaua'i County Council adopted a new law that requires all retail establishments to provide only recyclable paper bags or reusable bags to their customers effective January 11, 2011. The purpose of the legislation is to reduce the significant impact of plastic checkout bags on the environment, which include litter, an increasing burden on the landfill, and threats to marine life.

Could you come up with more earth-friendly ways to wrap and give gifts?

Some suggestions include saving and recycling wrapping paper, decorating paper grocery bags, using pillow cases and recycled clothing, newspaper, old maps, etc.

Thought Questions

3.) Why is it important that waste gets disposed in the proper location?

Disposing waste in the proper location helps reduce the risk of polluting streams, waterways, and the ocean as well as reducing any health risks associated with diseases.

4.) There are some items that should never be thrown away. Can you name three of these items and give a brief explanation of why they should not end up in the landfill?

Antifreeze, ammonia, pesticides, chemicals, and fertilizers are some examples of hazardous waste. Hazardous waste should never be thrown in the trash; it needs to be disposed of properly. This type of waste can contain toxins that may be dangerous to humans and/or the environment. Refer website for hazardous waste disposal guidelines.

Decomposition Time Activity

Orange Peel: E; Diaper: F; Leather Boot: G; Battery: B; Glass Jar: H; Apple Core: E; Wool Sock: D; Cigarette Butt: A; Plastic Soda Bottle: C; Aluminum Can: I; Plastic Bag: J.

Corporate Challenge Thought Questions

What do you think this corporation is doing to help reduce, reuse, recycle, or make their products eco-friendly or biodegradable? Or, do you think they have left that job to you (the consumer)? How do you think you could find out?

Children should be encouraged to research company websites and write letters or emails to find out the answers to these questions.

Da Tree R Challenge

Come up with three ways to reduce your use of:

(Here are some sample answers.)

- 1.) **Food:** (Plan meals, buy only what you need, share with another family, eat from your garden.)
- 2.) **Clothing:** (Buy less, buy from garage sales, borrow, share.)
- 3) **Plastic Water Bottles:** (Reuse a jar from #4 below, refill a personal water bottle, encourage your sports group to have refill stations instead of buying water bottles for everyone.)
- 4.) **Jars:** (Buy less items that are individually packaged. In other words, buy a gallon of apple juice instead of buying an 8-pack of individual sizes, buy less, reuse jars to make salad dressing from larger sizes of oil and vinegar, etc.)

How many ways can you think of to reuse or repurpose these same items?

- 1.) **Food:** (Eat leftovers, plan meals, feed to pets.)
- 2.) **Clothing:** (Give to a friend, turn into gift wrap, sew a shopping bag from jeans, use old fabrics to make new clothes, make curtains, a quilt, or a recycled rug or use as rag.)
- 3.) **Plastic Water Bottles:** (*Note: It is not really safe to refill plastic water bottles for consumption, instead, reuse for paint, crafts, Christmas ornaments, etc.)
- 4.) **Jars:** (Store bulk foods, make your own salad dressing, make a flower vase or coin jar, store shells, store food in the fridge, or store pens and pencils.)

How and where would you recycle each item?

- 1.) **Food:** (Compost in the yard.)
- 2.) **Clothing:** (See #2 above to repurpose, or sell at garage sale.)
- 3.) **Plastic Water Bottles:** (Recycle at HI5 locations.)
- 4.) **Jars:** (Recycle at drop bins and HI5 locations.)

Debate and Discussion

These questions are designed to inspire creative problem solving, not to provoke a single answer. Questions 5 and 6 should be answered by stating that using less and recycling will cost less and that HI5 locations will refund money for items returned. Question 7 is designed to be researched either online or by contacting the County of Kaua'i.