

Classroom Resources:



Lunch in the Landfill?

Grade Levels: 2 - 6

Over the next week, have your students separate the waste left after they eat lunch.

Separate out everything that can be re-used, recycled or composted. Weigh all the rest of the waste that will end up in a landfill.

Have the students create a chart for the class that lists each students' name, the date and the weight of their trash.

Challenge your students to reduce the amount of trash they produce each day, bring their food in re-usable containers instead of plastic zip-top bags and ask their parents to purchase recyclable containers rather than non-recyclable ones.

At the end of the week, create a graph showing the reduced amount of trash produced throughout the week.

Have the students look at the trashing being put in the landfill and identify items that could harm or kill sea turtles and other marine or coastal wildlife. Have your students discuss ways to reduce or eliminate these items, or come up with alternative solutions.

Does your school have a compost bin? If not, maybe you could start one and have each class or grade compete to see who can reduce their landfill contribution each week!