



Recycling Lesson Plan- One Man's Trash is Another Man's Treasure

Driving question- What does waste disposal cost anyway?



Lesson - Following the research from the *Don't Waste the Moment* lesson, student teams can research the cost of waste disposal and continue with interviewing the cafeteria workers, janitors, teachers, and the principal. Their questions may extend to other members of the school system and community so they may get answers to questions such as:

- How often is trash removed from cafeteria?
- How often is trash removed from school?
- What does trash service cost for the school per month?
- What are the transportation or disposal charges for trash?
- How might we reduce our impact on the amount of waste generated?
- Could we reduce the cost of waste removal and save money for other purposes?

Information from each group may be compiled on charts. If students have experience working with spreadsheets, they may consider using Microsoft Office Excel or Google forms; tutorials are available online. TechSteps also provides instruction for Excel. Graphs may be created to illustrate results of waste disposed.

Following their research, student teams should present their findings about the cost of waste removal for the school. They should propose a solution to reduce the amount of solid waste in the garbage. If their proposals show a saving of school funds, the students may also propose what could be done with the money.

Informational Text - As part of their presentations, students should be prepared with an, "If you want to learn more..." recommended reading for their peers, which includes the book or article and the name of the newspaper or magazine, author, a quick summary, and the ISBN.