



Garbology Lesson Plan 1

Title: Systems of Waste Around Me

Lesson: Introduction

Time: 30 minutes

Purpose: Connect students with larger systems of waste generation and recycling

Prerequisite Concepts and Skills: None

Materials and Resources:

- Computer or laptop
- Projector and screen (not required)
- Art supplies (paper, pencils, pens, markers, stickers, scissors and magazines)

Lesson Plan:

Activity 1:

Utopia of a Waste Free World (10 minutes)



[Please review the pictures from past students.](#) These pieces were created by Flagstaff students and represent how they think about their world, how they thought about waste and what they could do about it.

Materials:

1. Art supplies
2. Paper

Instructions:

- Take some time to think about what your world without waste would look like, smell like, feel like, and sound like.
- Let's get creative and write a poem, make a song, draw a picture, or create a collage.

Please watch the following films and educational videos and follow these videos with the activities, or jump to the 'Questions to ponder' section to generate classroom discussion.

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1. These films were created by QMedia for the Azulita Project (5 minutes)



- a. [Learn about what is and is not recyclable in Flagstaff](#)

Review the do's and don'ts of recycling in Flagstaff, Arizona, with with Dapper Dre, the unofficial Mayor of Flagstaff. Produced and directed by Q Media.

Link: <https://vimeo.com/539687185>



- b. [Learn about wishcycling and contamination in Flagstaff's recycling](#)

Flagstaff sends more than 1.4 million pounds of material to the recycling center each month, but about 1/3 of that cannot actually be recycled and goes to the landfill anyway, where it will remain forever. And even the stuff that can be recycled isn't easy to get rid of. And the fact remains that most plastics and other materials that we discard cannot be recycled at all. A better solution is to REDUCE OUR USE. Flagstaff, let's tackle this problem where it starts--with us! Go here to learn more: plasticfreeflagstaff.org Link:

<https://vimeo.com/539690551>

2. Learn about recycling infrastructure intervention (2 minutes)



- a. [Watch Darren's video about working with Flagstaff schools to improve recycling](#)

This short video was filmed by Lucrative Pictures and captures the process of distributing and improving the recycling infrastructure at schools through the Garbology curriculum designed by Darren Bingham and his company REGEN Consulting Services. Link:

<https://vimeo.com/511266778>

Activity 2:



As a group discuss the takeaways from the videos and share all your work from the activity. If you need to use the 'Questions to Ponder' section to stimulate this discussion, please do so. (5 minutes)

Questions to Ponder:



- What is waste? Why does waste exist?
- What are different types of organic and inorganic waste?
- How long can different materials last in a landfill?
- How would it feel to live in a landfill?
- How much consumer waste do you personally create?
- How much waste does my school or household create in a week?
- How do other countries take care of their waste?
- What did people do before plastic was invented for food packaging?
- What are some reusable items you could use to avoid single-use plastics?

Learning Outcomes:

- Learn about American consumer waste and about Flagstaff-specific issues and recycling
- Learn about landfills and where waste goes after you throw it "away"
- Learn where recycling goes after you put things in the blue bin
- Engage with waste creatively at an introductory level

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Homework:

- Learn about your local recycling guidelines specific to where you live. Research your town or waste provider to see what you can recycle in your area.