KEEP GREATER MILWAUKEE BEAUTIFUL

The Amazing Waste

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Objective: Learn how to sort waste properly and see the importance of reusing and recycling

The average American produces 4.5 pounds of trash in a single day. However, if that amount is sorted properly, a lot less waste would be generated!

People can also save money when recycling recyclables instead of landfilling them.

Supplies Needed

-A variety of waste items (excluding any food waste): napkins, plastic food containers, fabric, glass bottles, soda cans, tin cans, paper, wood, paper lunch bag, cardboard, etc.
-Trash bag or wastebasket
-3 bins for sorting trash items

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1. Place all gathered trash items in a trash bag or wastebasket. Take a look at what you have. How much does the bag weigh? Is it all trash?

2. Set out each of the three containers for sorting. One will represent the trash bin, one the recycle bin, and one a reuse bin. Label each bin with a decorative sign if you want.

3. Take out each item and really think about where it goes. Not all items should go in the trash. What can you recycle? What can you reuse? Use the recycling guide below to help.

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4. After you have resorted all of the items, take a look in the trash bin. How much trash is there? Does it weigh less than what you started with?

5. Reusing and recycling are very good things to practice. Did you have items in each of those bins? Give yourself 5 green points for every item in the reuse bin and 10 green points for every item in the recycle bin. How many points do you have total?

Try this activity with a friend and see who can get more green points. When you reduce waste, you're all winners!