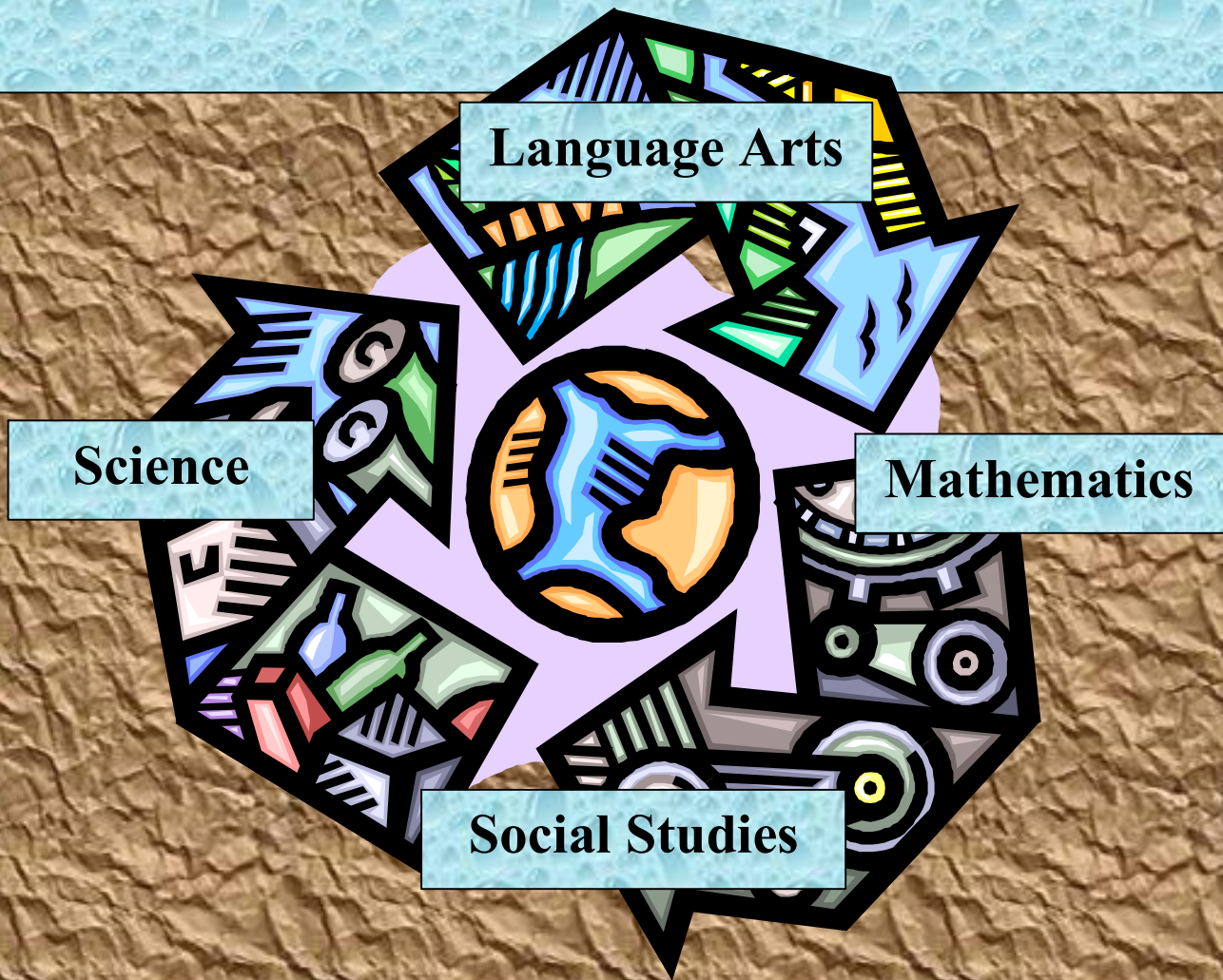


Garbology

A Thematic Unit about Trash

By Nancy L. Wilkinson



Garbology
Statistical Analysis in Mathematics
Lesson 12
Sorting Plastic

Objective:

Students will categorize the plastic containers from the trash containers.

Materials:

The bags of trash.

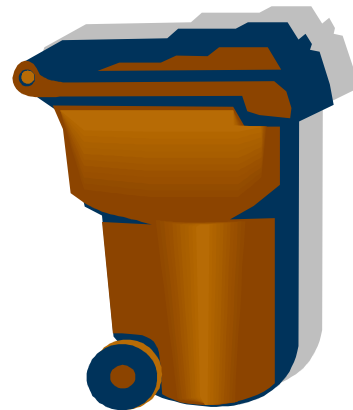
Opening:

Most states require that manufactures code plastic using a system created by the Society of Plastic Industry. Consumers can use the code to sort plastic trash at recycling centers. This number is written in the center of the recycling symbol. Below is a chart showing the codes.

1	PETE (polyethylene terephthalate)	Some waterproof packaging, soda and water bottles, cooking oil bottles
2	HDPE (high density polyethylene)	Milk, detergent and oil bottles, toys and plastic bags
3	PVC (polyvinyl chloride)	Food wrap, vegetable oil bottles, bubble wrap
4	LDPE (low density polyethylene)	Many plastic bags, shrink wrap, garment bags
5	PP (polypropylene)	Refrigerated containers, some bags, most bottle tops, some carpets, some food wrap
6	PS (polystyrene)	Throwaway utensils, meat packaging, protective packaging
7	Other (mixed plastics)	No recycling potential - must be landfilled.

Activity:

- 1) Sort through the plastic in your bag of trash. Create a frequency table that shows the amount of plastic in each category shown above.
- 2) Create a bar graph or pictograph that shows the difference in the amounts of plastic types.

**Closure:**

What do you think is the most common type of plastic? Why?