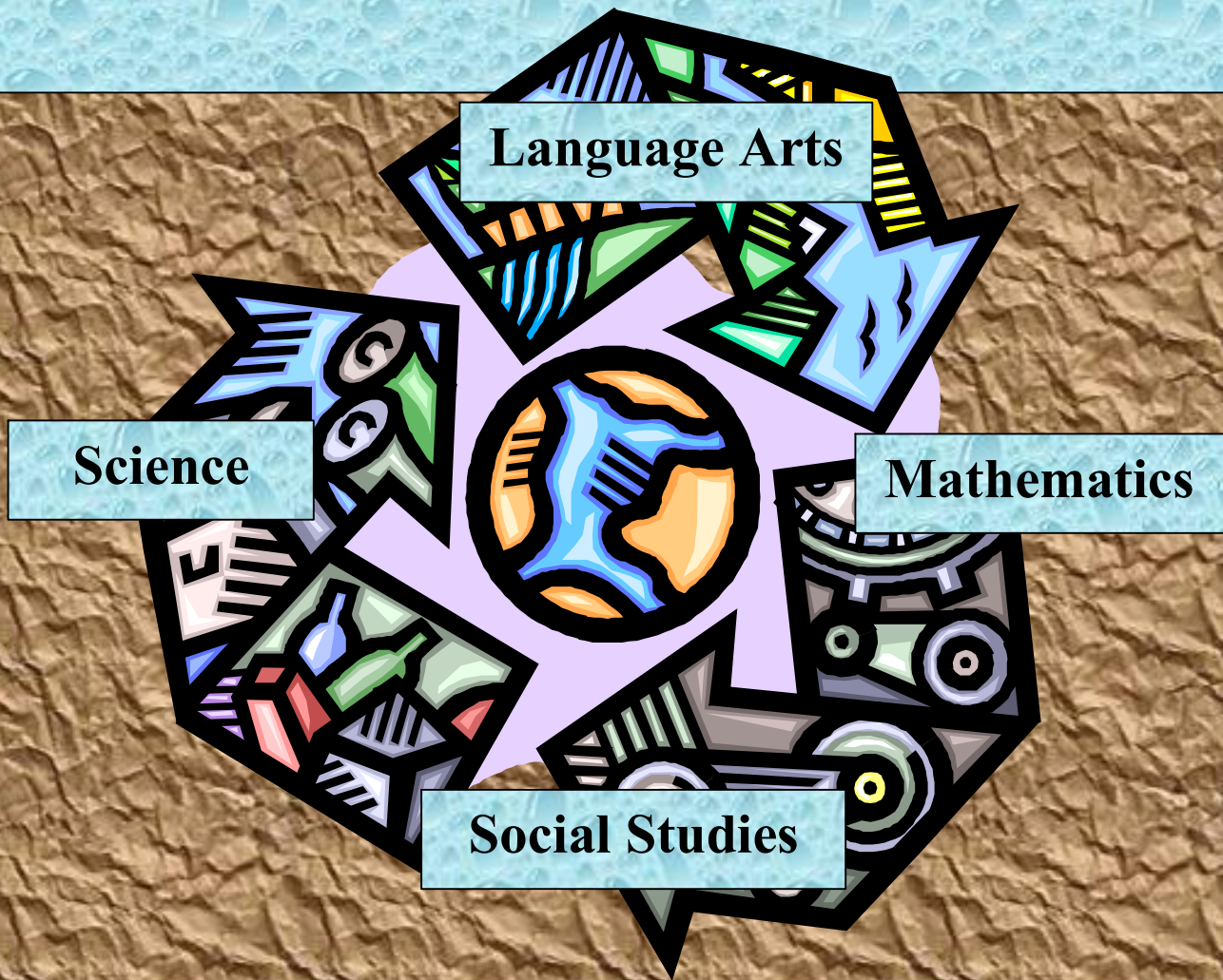


# **Garbology**

## **A Thematic Unit about Trash**

**By Nancy L. Wilkinson**



**Garbology**  
**Social Studies Activities**  
**Lesson 16**

**Objective:**

Students will participate in a discussion about various issues on garbage.

**Materials:**

- 1) Almanacs
- 2) Phone books
- 3) Write the discussion topics listed below on the chalkboard.

**Opener:**

Read each discussion topic to the students. Tell them not to answer the questions out loud, but to just think about them for a minute.

**Activity:**

The students should choose a discussion topic and hold a classroom discussion. Students should be encouraged to state their views. The teacher might want to arrange the students in a circle. A softball could be thrown to the person who is going to speak. This "talk ball" alleviates the problem of all students talking at once. Instead of discussion or after the class discussion, the teacher might want to have the students write a short essay responding to each topic. The essays could be shared or presented to the class.

**Discussion Topics:**

- 1) Look at the almanac and find out which country produces the most trash. Why do you think this is the case?
- 2) Look up the recycling places in your town. How many are there? Which item has the most locations for recyclable items, IE: cans, paper, etc.)? Why do you think this is the case?
- 3) If there was a law that you could not chop down any more trees, what do you think might happen? You will want to consider economic as well as environmental reasons.
- 4) Brainstorm on some uses to recycle ordinary household items. For example, plastic shower curtains can be reused as drop cloths. Create a list of your own. (The teacher might want to bring some items in and ask the students how the items can be reused.)
- 5) Should we outlaw using any particular material such as plastics, aluminum, glass etc.? Why do you think so? Support your reasoning with statistics.
- 6) What are some ways that you have reduced the amount of trash you and your family throws away? How can you recycle more?