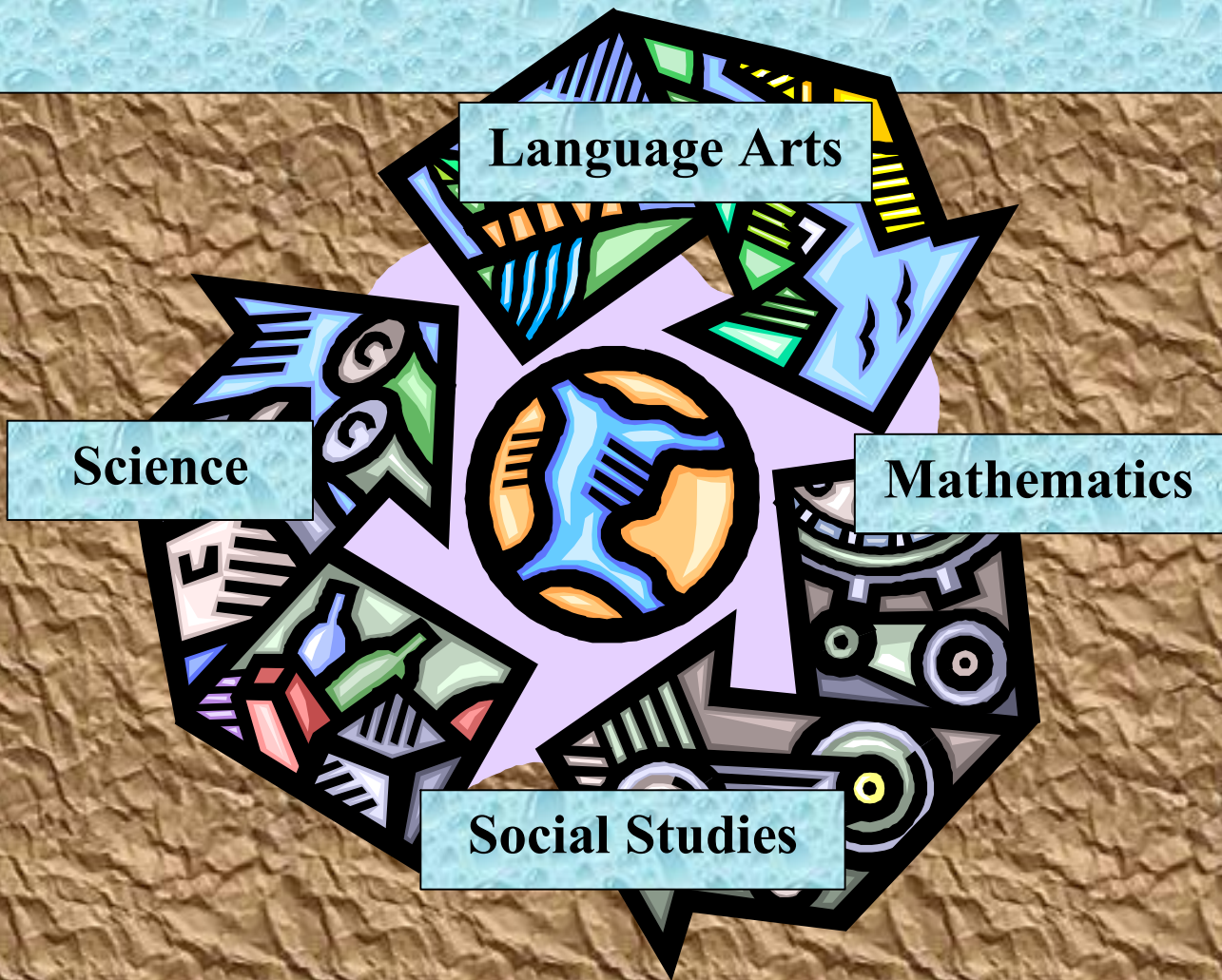


Garbology

A Thematic Unit about Trash

By Nancy L. Wilkinson



Garbology
Social Studies Activities
Lesson 17
Research Discussion

Objective:

Students will research various articles on garbage.

Materials:

- 1) Time magazine article from October 18, 1993 on Germany's problem with trash
- 2) Various articles about trash.

Opener:

Have students read the article from Time Magazine or read the excerpt below:

Synopsis of Article:

Germany has a Green dot program. People buy products with the green dot and pay an extra 25 cents for the product. The green dot means that the item is recyclable. Purple garbage trucks come by and pick up the materials with the green dot. As of 1993, 95% of the households were participating in the green dot program. This equaled 40,000 tons of sorted trash annually.

The problem is that there is not much of a demand for all the recyclable trash. They can only recycle 1/3 of the amount collected. Much of the trash is stored in large airplane hangers. Some of the trash is even exported to countries as far away as Indonesia.

Activity:

- 1) Ask the students how they would solve this problem. Brainstorm on several solutions by writing them on the board.
- 2) Each student or group should select an article to read and create a short paper or presentation on the article.
- 3) The students should include the following information in their papers or presentation:
 - a. The name of the magazine and the date of publication.
 - b. Page number(s) of the magazine article and author of the article.
 - c. What is the main topic of the article?
 - d. What facts are given in the article? List them.
 - e. Does it pose a problem? If so, what is it?
 - f. Does it give a solution? If so, what is it?
 - g. What is your opinion of the solution if there is one? If there is not one, how would you solve it?
 - h. What is your opinion of the article? Do you think it helped you in any way? Did it convince you to do or not do something?

Closure:

The students can share their reports with the class.