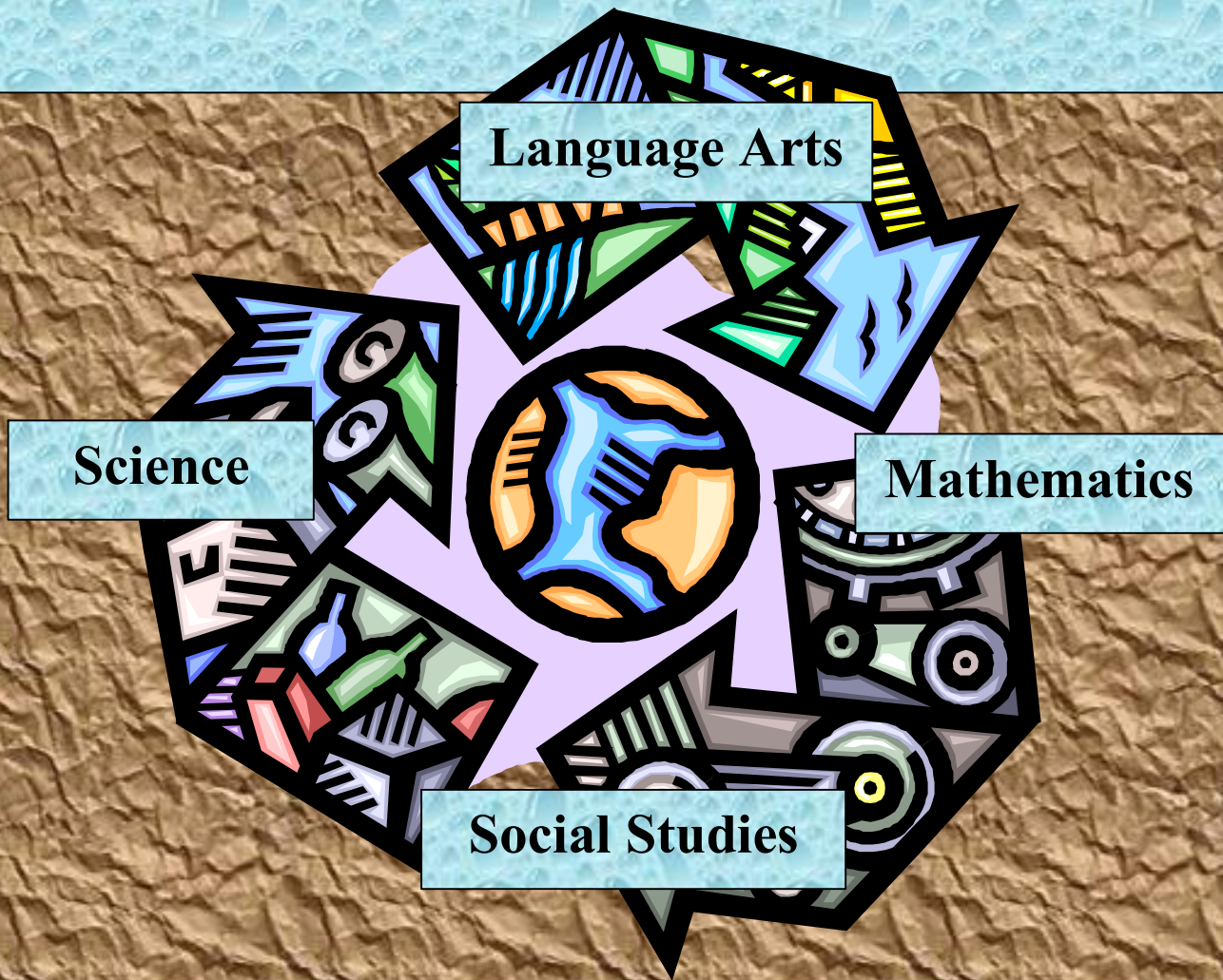


Garbology

A Thematic Unit about Trash

By Nancy L. Wilkinson



Garbology
Getting Started
Lesson 2
Sorting through the Trash

Objective:

Students will sort through a bag of trash.
Students will write down the contents of the trash sack and categorize it.

Materials:

- 1) Several bags of trash. These can be collected from teachers who volunteer to contribute trash. A letter is provided on the following page for you to distribute to teachers.
- 2) Surgical gloves. These can be donated from a hospital or purchased at a beauty supply or drug store.
- 3) Plastic bags in case teachers need them for trash.
- 4) Label each trash bag with a number.
- 5) Worksheet 2 - One copy for each student or group

Opening:

Ask the students what things they throw away in their homes. Write their responses on the chalkboard.

Instruction:

- 1) Have the students examine the garbage and carefully write down and describe each item: (Worksheet 2 can be used for this exercise).
 - a. What is the name of the item?
 - b. Of what is it made? (Be sure to name all the parts. IE: plastic, metal, paper)
 - c. How big is the item?
 - d. In what shape is the item? Is it clean? Is it dirty? IS it scrunched up?
 - e. Does the item smell?
 - f. Does it have food particles on it?
 - g. Is it recyclable? (Name the part that is recyclable)
 - h. If it were recyclable, in what container would you put it? (Plastic, metal, aluminum, glass paper.)
- 2) Have the students answer each question. It is suggested that the questions be used as discussion starters.

Closure:

Discuss what the students thought about the garbage. Is it a realistic view of what they throw away in their home? Why or why not? How was this trash different?

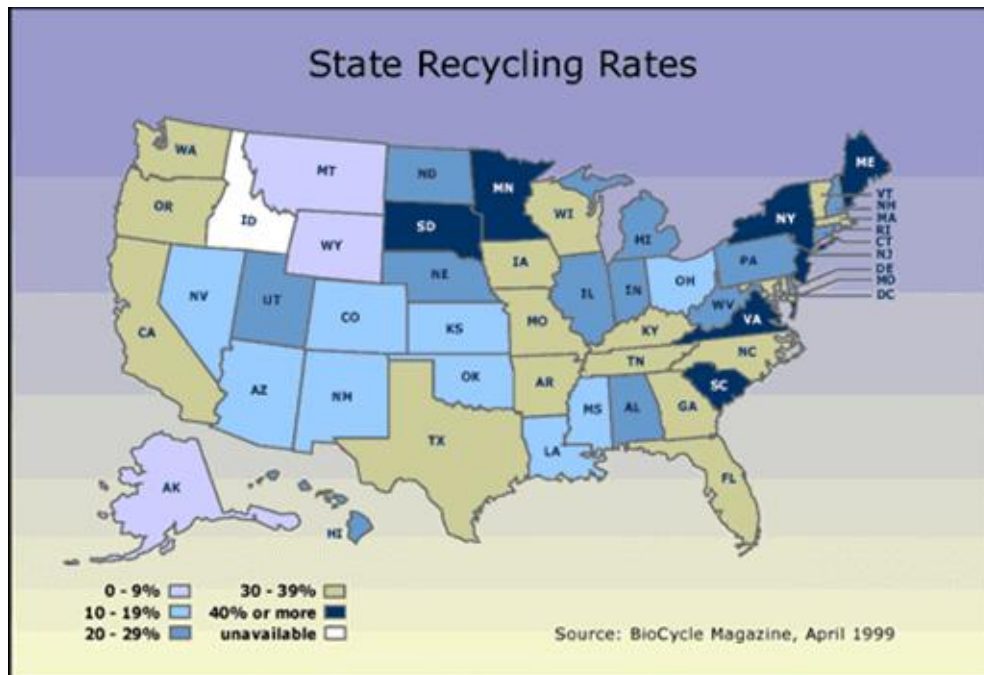
Dear Teachers,

On _____ through _____ we will be working on an activity called Garbology. Our class (es) will be writing poetry about trash, studying the problem of too much garbage and researching statistical information about our trash.

We need your help. If possible, would you please bring us a trash bag of garbage from your house? The more trash you include the better! If you are interested in helping with this lesson, the guidelines are below:

- 1) Put the garbage in a plastic trash bag. The more garbage the better!
- 2) Make sure the garbage is clean and void of things you don't want the students to see. (IE: bills, certain magazines, alcoholic beverages, etc.) Food containers are acceptable, as well as some food such as banana peels. Not all of the garbage needs to be recyclable.
- 3) Make sure your name is not on any of your garbage. The students will be guessing to whom the garbage belongs and will be writing about the family that produced it.
- 4) Bring the garbage to school before _____.

Sincerely,



Lesson 2, Worksheet 2

Name _____ Period _____

Directions: Sort through the trash and fill in the chart below.

1) What is the name of the item?													
2) Of what is it made?													
3) How big is the item?													
4) In what shape is the item? (Clean, dirty, scrunched up?)													
5) Does the item smell?													
6) Does it have any food particles on it?													
7) Is it recyclable? (Name the part that is recyclable)													
8) How is it recyclable? (Plastic, metal, aluminum, glass, paper)													
9) If the item is plastic, what is the classification number? (Found in the recyclable logo)													

