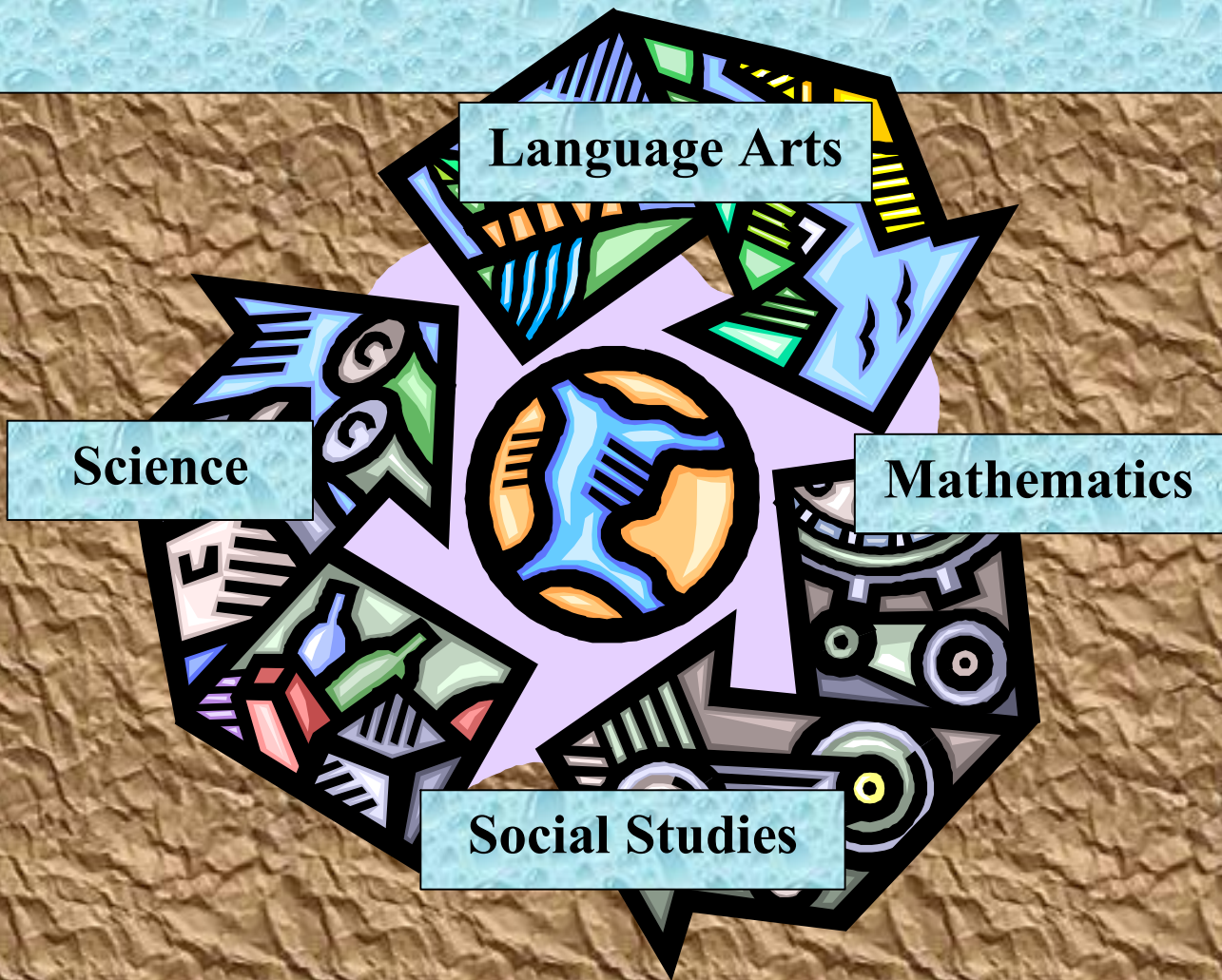


Garbology

A Thematic Unit about Trash

By Nancy L. Wilkinson



Garbology
Science Activities
Other Science Activities

- 1) Study what it takes to create a landfill. Have students create a landfill. This can be done simply by having them create one in a clear cup to show the layers or actually make a large-scale model of a landfill. One great website with a lesson centering on landfills is:

<http://www.stevetrash.com/lesson6.htm>

The student will be able to:

1. Predict the life cycle of a piece of trash.
2. Explain the purpose of a landfill.
3. Classify the items found in a landfill.
4. Recognize the components in a landfill.
5. Reconstruct a model of a landfill.

- 2) There are several websites on the Internet that have other wonderful lessons centering on garbology. One very good one is <http://www.lifewater.org/wfw/wfwindex.htm#SWD>.

Teachers can download lesson plans centering around:

- a. Methods of Solid Waste Management
- b. Planning Solid Waste Management Systems
- c. Designing a Landfill
- d. Designing a Composting System
- e. Designing a Solid Waste Collection System
- f. Designing a Biogas System
- g. Constructing a Biogas System
- h. Operating and Maintaining a Landfill
- i. Operating and Maintaining a Composting System
- j. Operating a Solid Waste Collection System
- k. Operating and Maintaining a Biogas System

- 3) The Environmental Protection Agency has a kid's page where there are some lessons and activities. It also includes interactive games. Their address is

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/kids/index.htm>. Activities include:

- a. Trash and Climate Change
- b. Case of the Broken Loop
- c. Follow That Trail
- d. Planet Protectors Coloring Book
- e. Create Less Waste In The First Place

- 4) Learn about landfill gasses. Many landfills now use the gasses created from decomposing material to create energy. An Internet search on landfill gasses will yield some results.