

A Trash Project!

Instructions for teachers:

- As a homework assignment, have your students bring a recyclable container to school in which they could hold a day's worth of trash.
- For the project, have your students carry the container around all day and put their trash (*not garbage*) into their own container instead of the trash can.
- The students should take the container home with them and continue to put their trash into the container until they go to bed.
- As a homework assignment, the students should look through their trash and tally the types of trash they made during the day.
- From the trash they created, they should make a graph and bring it to class the next day.
- The following day as a class, your students can graph the entire total of trash that they created in one day.
- When the class graph is completed, have your students write a response in which they explain ways that they can reduce the amount of trash they produce.

Answers to the responses could include how each student could make an effort to reduce their consumption of materials, reuse materials that they use in everyday life, and recycle items that can be recycled.

Activity Variation: As a variation to this activity, you could also have students track what kind of trash the entire school produces over the course of a week. You could do this by having your students make tally sheets for each classroom to post over their trash cans and ask them to mark a tally for each type of trash that they make. Also, you could have two students attend each lunch period and stand by the trash cans to tally what kind of waste is thrown away. This would give your students a lot of data, as well as a lot of first hand experiences how much waste can be created in a short period of time!

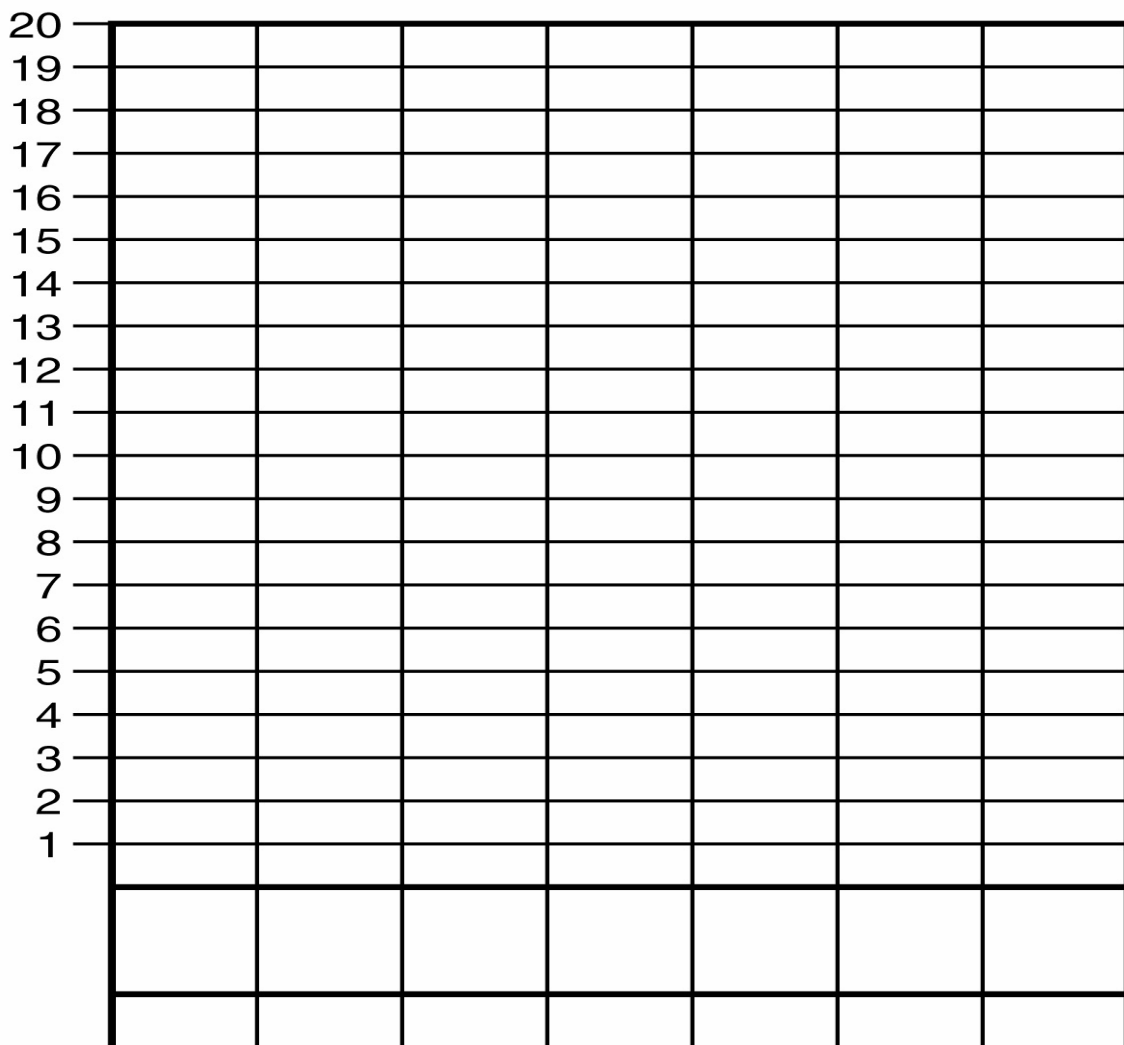
With the data they collect, your students should make bar graphs that indicate the amount of each trash item that is produced, and then have them write responses indicating how they could reduce the amount of each particular waste they produce as well as how the entire school could do the same.

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Name _____ Date _____

Homework: Go through the trash that you have collected today in your container and separate it into different types of trash: paper, plastic, wrappers, glass, etc. Mark a tally for each piece of trash in the corresponding category and make a bar graph for the results below.

MY TRASH FOR THE DAY



Types of trash

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Name _____ Date _____

Answer this question using your own experience/research/understanding/etc.

Based on the types of trash you created, what would be the best way for you to reduce the amount of garbage that you produce every day?

Think Green, Teach Green

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