

The Away Project ***An in-depth look at our waste stream***

Overview

Students will collect all their trash and recycling in a reusable tote bag for a predetermined period of time – ideally one week. Students will not need to collect organics (food) or bathroom waste. At the end of the week, we will conduct an audit to examine the content of our bags. This lesson requires a higher level of teacher support than typical lessons as it is done over the course of a week.

Time

45-60 minutes (depending on depth of discussion) on Monday (Part 1) and Friday (Part 2)
Ongoing reminders throughout the week

Materials

- [Where Is Away Prezi](#)
- Tote Bags
- MRO Posters
- Gloves and tarps for sorting
- Scale

Part 1-Monday

- Present the Where is Away Prezi – go over the details of what happens to our trash, compost and recycling after we put it in the bin.
- Students will be given a tote bag for collecting their trash that they will return at the end of the project. Anything they would normally place in the trash or recycling bin should go in their bag instead. To maintain cleanliness, students are encouraged to rinse their materials before placing them in the bag. Food and bathroom waste should be left out of the bag and discarded as normal. Students are expected to carry their bag EVERYWHERE

Part 2-Friday

- Each student will weigh their bag, sort through the contents, and categorize items as reusable, recyclable, avoidable and trash. This will tie into a discussion about wants versus needs.
- Students will then identify at least 3 ways they can reduce the amount of trash and recycling they are producing each week.
- Students can make a pledge to change at least one of their behaviors for a less wasteful alternative. For example, they can pledge to use a reusable cup instead of a disposable for hot beverages.



CENTRAL VERMONT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
137 BARRE STREET, MONTPELIER, VT 05602

This lesson has been adapted, with permission, from The 1to1 Movement
<http://www.awayproject.org/>

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Name:

Bag #:

Do you think you will produce more, the same or less waste than the average person?

What do you think will be the most challenging part of the Away Project?

Work together as a class to come up with at least 3 questions you might want to ask yourself at the end of the project.

1. _____

_____?

2. _____

_____?

3. _____

_____?



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Categorize each item in your trash tote using the chart below. After you have categorized all the items in your bag write the letter N next to all the items that you consider a need and the letter W next to all the items you consider a want.

Reusable	Recyclable	Avoidable	Trash	Other

List 3 ways you could reduce the amount of waste you produce

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

In an effort to reduce waste, I pledge to



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