

## NO WASTE LUNCH DAY

- Grade Level: 7-8
- Subjects: Social Studies, Language Arts
- Suggested Time: 2 periods, plus the No Waste Lunch Day

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*Students research waste and recycling, and plan a No Waste Lunch day for the school.*

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### Materials

Computers with internet access, Waste Web Quest worksheets, posters and markers (optional).

### National Standards

#### Social Studies:

- Marginal cost/benefit.
- Roles of the citizen.
- Environment and society.
- Human systems.

#### Language Arts:

- Reading for perspective.
- Evaluation strategies.
- Evaluating data.
- Developing research skills.
- Participating in society.

### Ohio 2010 Standards

#### Social Studies:

- Individuals, governments, and businesses must analyze costs and benefits when making economic decisions. (7)
- Participation in social and civic groups can lead to the attainment of individual and public goals. (8)
- Choices made by individuals, businesses and governments have both present and future consequences. (8)
- The availability of natural resources contributed to the geographic and economic expansion of the United States, sometimes resulting in unintended environmental consequences. (8)

**Language Arts:**

- Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions for further research and investigation. (7)
- Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. (7)
- Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration. (8)
- Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports and analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. (8)

**Objectives**

The student will be able to:

- Explain why it is important to reduce waste.
- Answer reading comprehension questions about waste and recycling from web sites.
- List possible solutions for reducing waste.
- Plan a No Waste Lunch Day for the school.

**Teacher Preparation**

Communicate with principal, food service coordinator, and cafeteria staff about holding a No Waste Lunch Day. Choose a date close to when you teach the lesson.

**Introduction**

- Ask students to think about all the trash they, the school, and their families throw away each day.
- Ask students how trash affects the environment. Explain that trash is a huge problem which will only worsen as the students get older. With 650 billion people in the world, and 300 million in the U.S., someday humans will run out of places to put trash. Many of the items in landfills take thousands of years to break down, such as plastic and Styrofoam, which are often used in school lunches.
- Tell students they will learn about waste (trash) and recycling by reading web sites and answering questions. Then they will plan a no waste lunch day for the school.

**Activities**

- Distribute the Waste Web Quest worksheets. Students may complete the work individually or in groups, depending on the number of computers.
- Once students have answered the questions, students should return to work as a class to plan a No Waste Lunch Day. Ask students to include ways to involve others in reducing waste on this day.
- Students should then work in groups to create signs, PA announcements, presentations, videos, newsletters, and emails to staff advertising and explaining the No Waste Lunch Day. Students should include the event date and tips for packing or serving a no waste lunch.

### Extensions

- Students may write a plan for helping the school to reduce waste and increase recycling all year round. Email or present the plan to staff members.
- Students may create a plan for reducing waste and increasing recycling in the home, and share the plans with their families.

### Closing

Ask students how they will change their personal habits to reduce waste.

### Worksheet

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**Waste Web Quest Worksheet**



Waste Web Quest  
Worksheet

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