



WASTE AUDIT 3

HOME WASTE AUDIT

BACKGROUND:

Many of the items that we buy become waste very quickly. For example, a pen often comes in a plastic and cardboard package that we remove and discard right away. After the pen has run out of ink, we discard the plastic pen and its parts. Many food items come wrapped in plastics or placed on foam packaging. These items and sometimes the leftover foods are discarded when no longer needed. Consider what you buy and if there are options that have less packaging or none at all.

PROCEDURE:

1. How does your family reduce waste?
2. Does your family reuse items? Which ones?
3. What items does your family recycle?
4. Does your family compost food and yard wastes?
5. Weigh all your garbage bags for one week.
 - How much garbage does your family create?
 - Did you notice any items in the trash that could be recycled or reused?
 - Were there items that could have been reduced? E.g. individually packaged snacks could be replaced by a large package of snacks or a homemade snack.
6. What could your family do to further reduce the amount of waste put in the garbage?



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Grade 2 Health Education: Outcome: USC2.1 Demonstrate a basic understanding of how thoughts, feelings, and actions influence health and well-being.

Grade 5 Science: Outcome: MC5.3 Assess how the production, use, and disposal of raw materials and manufactured products affects self, society, and the environment.

Grade 7 Science: Outcome: MS7.2 Investigate methods of separating the components of mechanical mixtures and solutions, and analyze the impact of industrial and agricultural applications of those methods.