

# Weigh your Waste & Trash Art

## *Eco-Schools Topic:*

Waste & Consumption

## *Grade Level:*

Grades K-6

## *Standards:*

5.7g human impact  
Individual Impact  
Creativity

## *Guiding Question:*

What is waste?

## *Lesson Objectives:*

Students will...

- See how much waste they produce in a day
- Reevaluate what is actually “waste” and what can be made into art

*Time:* 45-50 minutes

## *Links:*

-Letter

[-Story of Stuff Info Link -](#)

## *Prep:*

- Review trash facts & info
- Make sure teachers alert children and parents about day of the activity
- Have teachers send a note home to the parents (see attached note for a guide)
- Confirm with teacher that you can do this mildly messy activity in the classroom- if not take it outside.

## *Materials:*

- Scale (preferably one for each group)
- writing paper and utensils to record trash and for trash art
- Craft items for trash art
  - Paper, glue, other creative materials
- White board and white board marker

## *Engaging* INTRO (2 minutes)

- First impressions on the hassle of carrying around your trash

## *Exploratory* ACTIVITY (25 minutes)

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- Students split into groups of about 4.
- Each group gets a scale (if not enough than pass around the scale).
- Groups weigh and record their waste. **(5 minutes)**
- **Teachers collect total trash numbers and write the total weight on the board**
- Then students wash and dry their trash (if necessary) and use arts & crafts to create trash art with their trash. **(15 minutes)**
- Students set aside their art and consolidate the leftover trash from their original bags (THAT THEY DID NOT USE FOR THEIR ARTWORK) into the garbage bags.
- Clean up classroom and **re-record waste of the leftover trash bags (5 minutes)**
- Teachers write new total weight on the board and students subtract this new weight from the larger original weight.

## *Expanding the* DISCUSSION (10-15 minutes)

- What is trash to one person can be a gem to someone else.
- Talk about the consequences of waste (*See the Story of Stuff Link for more surprising facts and info*)
  - *Dumps*
  - *Pollution*
  - *Transportation involved*
- Discuss how much trash they saved through art.
- Take away- have everyone share out something they will do
- **Students can walk around and observe the art work gallery of their classroom (observing their work and others).**



With a little bit of knowledge, we can **ESLI** make a difference

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## *Evaluate* WHAT'S BEEN LEARNED:

- Take home art work to show and explain to family

## *Additional Information:*

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