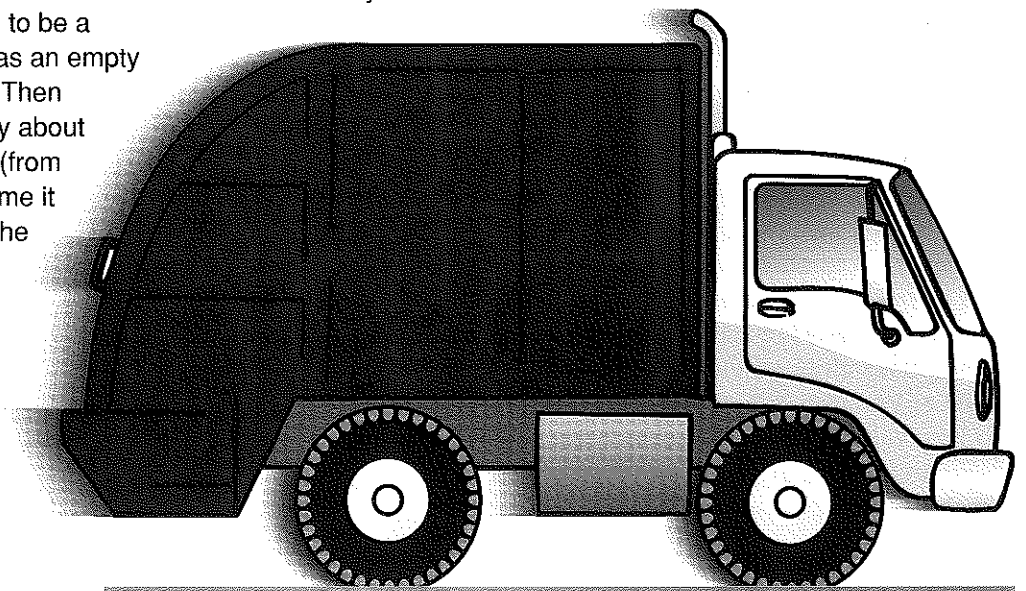


Where Does the Trash Go?

(Creative Writing)

Where exactly does all the garbage go once it's collected? Use the following activity to help students better understand what happens to nonrecyclable trash. Read aloud *Where Does the Garbage Go?* by Paul Showers (HarperCollins Children's Books, 1994). Then use the book to review the function of the landfill with your class.

Next, have each student pretend to be a nonrecyclable piece of trash, such as an empty food container or a candy wrapper. Then instruct each student to write a story about what happens to the piece of trash (from the trash's point of view) from the time it is thrown away and transported to the landfill. Remind each student to tell what means of transportation he used to reach his destination, what happened along the way, and what he discovered there. Bind together each student's adventure into a class book titled "Where Does the Trash Go?"



Two-Liter Landfills

(Experiment)

What better way is there for your students to see a landfill in action than by having them create their own? Ahead of time, collect the materials listed below. Then divide your students into pairs and guide each pair in following the directions below to create a two-liter landfill.

After the four-week observation period is over, discuss with students which items decayed in their landfills and which items did not. Ask your students what they think happens to the trash items that don't decay in a real landfill. Then discuss why it is important to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Materials for each pair: one 2-liter bottle with the top cut off; 1 permanent marker; soil; garbage items, such as food scraps (no meat), plastic, paper, and foil; 1 copy of page 20

Steps:

1. Write your name on the bottom of the bottle.
2. Fill the bottom of the bottle with a layer of soil.
3. Place a layer of one type of trash on top of the soil.
4. Place a layer of soil on top of the trash layer. Repeat this process with a different type of trash layer until there are four to five layers of trash.
5. Place the landfill in a sunny location. Water it daily to keep it moist.
6. On page 20, draw an illustration of the landfill after one week. Then write underneath the illustration a brief description of the landfill and how it's changed.
7. Continue to water the landfill and observe the changes that take place.
8. Draw an illustration of the landfill after four weeks. Then write underneath the illustration a brief description of the landfill and how it's changed.

