

**LESSON:**        **Nature Recycles, Shouldn't We All?**        **Grade Level:**        First Grade

**OBJECTIVES:**

Students will:

- Identify the problems associated with trash and recycling
- Identify ways they can reduce the amount of trash they produce
- Recycle more items

**MATERIALS:**

Computers able to connect to [Nature Recycles, Shouldn't We All?](http://www.fergusonfoundation.org/hbf/nature_recycles/trashlesslunch.shtml)

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**PRESENTATION:**

Imagine 80 garbage cans crammed with stinking trash! That's about how much trash each person throws away each year. This creates problems--

- Where to put it
- Running out of space in landfills

The earth's air, soil and water are always being recycled, or we would run out. Every time you go to a drinking fountain, or buy a bottle of water, you're drinking the same water that the dinosaurs drank. The earth, plants and weather all play parts in transporting and cleaning water and air so that we have enough for all our needs.

Dead plants and animals are recycled into soil through decomposition,. Worms, insects, and bacteria decompose animal waste (manure) to get nutrients, and insects lay their eggs in it.

**DIRECTIONS:**

There are several computer games for students to do individually—

- The Trash Sorting activity lets kids separate lunch items into these categories
- The Trash Free Lunch Game lets kids see how their lunch trash stacks up
- In Lunch Ranking, kids rank lunches from 1-4 in relation to trash vs. recycling
- The Recycle Quiz helps kids learn about what can be recycled and what is made of recycled material

Once students have played the games, taken the quizzes and explored the information, use these processing questions with the whole class—

- What did you learn about trash and recycling?
- Imagine what the world would be like if nature didn't recycle.
- What would it look like if nothing decomposed?
- How would it smell?
- If you think that's gross, think about all of the things you throw away every day.
- How do you think your trash looks piled up in the landfill, and would it smell?
- What can we do about the immense amount of trash we're creating in the world?

**Processing through the Six Pillars:**

**WHAT**

- What would our classroom look like if we all had lunch trash pile up every day?
- What are some lunch foods that don't need packaging at all?

**NOW WHAT**

- What would our classroom look like if we all did our part in packing a trash free lunch?
- How can we help other students to bring a trash-less lunch?

**SO WHAT**

- How do you think our classroom could do its fair share in reducing lunch trash?
- Are there things we could do at home, that would change our school lunch trash?

**Time:**

**1 hour**