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Post-Consumer Waste

1. Use a dictionary to look up the words DURABLE and DISPOSABLE. Write the definitions on the lines below.

a) The definition of durable is:

b) The definition of disposable is:

2. a) Think of ten things that you threw away in the past day or two. Describe those things on the lines below.

1)	_____
2)	_____
3)	_____
4)	_____
5)	_____
6)	_____
7)	_____
8)	_____
9)	_____
10)	_____

b) Circle all of the things on your list that were disposable.

Make a star next to the things on your list that you used more than once before throwing away.



Post-Consumer Waste

What happens after a product is no longer useful? Batteries run out. Music players break. Pens run out of ink. After you use a product, most or all of it becomes waste. This type of waste is called **post-consumer waste**. The prefix "post" is used to mean "after."



Post-consumer waste is any waste from a product after you buy it in a store. Wrappers, containers, and parts of the product that are thrown away after its use are all post-consumer waste.

STOP

Describe the meaning of the word post-consumer waste. What types of post-consumer waste are produced when you buy a box of markers?

What are some types of post-consumer waste?

The amount and type of post-consumer waste differs from product to product. Some machines, like refrigerators and cars, can be used for many years. These **durable goods** can often be fixed many times if some of their parts break. When they finally reach the end of their useful life, some of their parts can be taken off and used for other machines. Some of the metal waste from these machines can be melted and made into new parts.

Many of the smaller products that you use every day are called **nondurable goods**. These are products that you use for a little while and then throw away. Examples of nondurable goods include pens, notebooks, and game cartridges. Once they are broken or used up, they become waste.

Some nondurable goods are made to be used only once and then thrown away. These **disposable** goods include paper cups, napkins, and plastic baggies. Disposable goods are easy to use, because they do not have to be cleaned or taken care of. However, they become waste after only one use. This creates problems because communities are running out of room to put all of their waste.



Post-Consumer Waste

1. Draw a line to match the term on the left to its definition on the right.

1	post-consumer waste	a mechanical device used in the performance of some type of work	A
2	durable goods	products that are made to be used only once before being thrown away	B
3	nondurable goods	products that last for many years	C
4	disposable	any part of a product that is thrown away after it is bought in a store	D
5	machine	products that are used for a short time and then thrown away	E

2. Write "durable" or "nondurable" on the line next to each item.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| _____ a) couch | _____ b) markers |
| _____ c) cellular phone | _____ d) school bus |
| _____ e) desk | _____ f) television set |
| _____ g) running shoes | _____ h) scissors |
| _____ i) light bulb | _____ j) notebook |
| _____ k) "D" batteries | _____ l) book shelf |

3. Circle the word True if the statement is true. Circle the word False if it is false.

- a) A juice box is an example of a disposable product.
True False
- b) Wrappers are examples of post-consumer waste.
True False
- c) Post-consumer waste from your desk includes the scraps of wood used to make it.
True False
- d) Disposable goods create less waste than durable goods.
True False
- e) Durable goods can usually be fixed if they break.
True False



Post-Consumer Waste

4. Explain the difference between pre-consumer waste and post-consumer waste.

5. Explain the difference between durable goods and nondurable goods.

Extension & Application

6. Keep track of your post-consumer waste. Use the chart below to classify everything you throw away for one week. Multiple use items are products that you use more than one time before throwing them away.

DURABLE	NONDURABLE	
	Multiple Use	Disposable

Which column had the most entries after one week? _____

Brainstorm a list of ways that you could lessen the amount of disposable waste that you throw away.



Pollution

School Action Plan

When communities have a problem to solve, community leaders start with an action plan. An action plan clearly states all parts of the problem, and steps that community members can take towards a solution.

Does your school have a problem with pollution? Work in small groups to write an action plan that you will present to your school community.

RESEARCH THE PROBLEM

Take a survey of your school's environment. Walk around the school grounds, and visit each of the buildings. In each area, note the following:

- litter
- hazardous waste
- pollutants that can contaminate air or water

WRITE THE ACTION PLAN

Summarize your observations from your research in a short bulleted list. Include photographs or diagrams that will help people understand your findings.

Brainstorm a list of ideas about what students, teachers, and staff can do to help solve the pollution problems that you found. Ask yourselves the following questions:

- What can people do to clean up pollution around school?
- How should people safely handle hazardous wastes?
- What is the best way to dispose of pollutants?
- What can people do to stop future pollution problems at school?

Write your ideas as a set of action steps. For example, "Assign students to help pick up litter in the cafeteria after lunch."

Present your action plan at a school board meeting, school staff meeting, or to an assembly of classrooms. Ask teachers and staff to help.



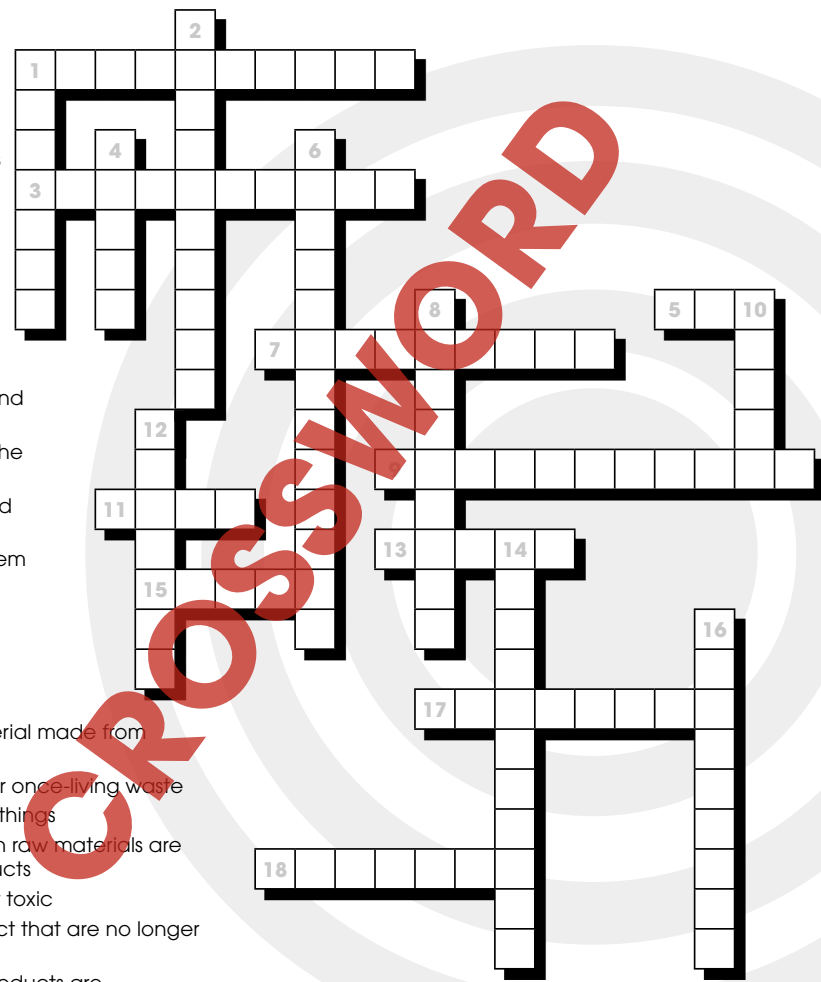
Crossword Puzzle!

Across

- used to kill insect pests
- lets pollutants pass into air
- _____ materials
- containers, labels, etc.
- waste from a product before it is bought
- substance that tastes sour
- matter that has definite shape and volume
- rivers drain into the _____
- place where solid waste is buried
- manufactured item

Down

- packaging material made from petroleum oil
- type of landfill for once-living waste
- harmful to living things
- process by which raw materials are made into products
- another word for toxic
- parts of a product that are no longer useful
- facility where products are manufactured
- facility where solid waste is burned
- when harmful substances get into the environment



Comprehension Quiz

Part C

Answer each question in complete sentences.

- What is the difference between **pre-consumer waste** and **post-consumer waste**? Give an example of each.

- Describe two reasons to choose products with the least amount of **packaging**.

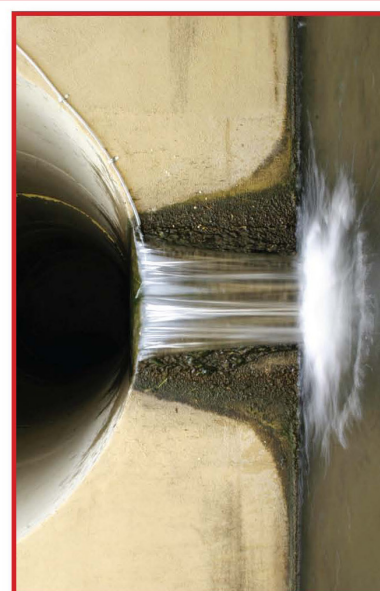
- Describe what **toxic waste** is. Give two examples of toxic waste that you might find in your home, and tell how to dispose of them safely.

- What is the difference between **point source** and **nonpoint source** pollution? Give an example of each.

- Explain how living things in the ocean are harmed by **pollution** made by people on land. Give two examples to support your answer.

SUBTOTAL: /16

Point Sources of Pollution



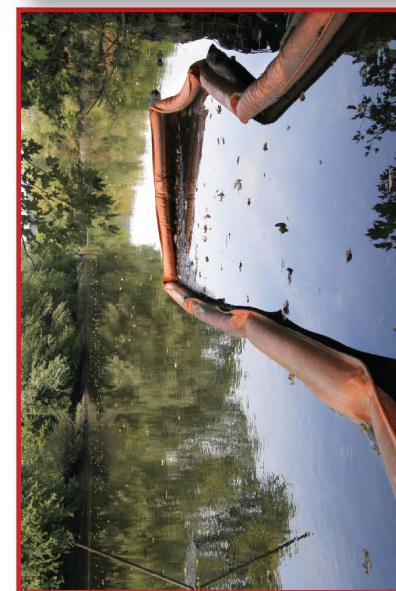
Factory Waste



Sewage Waste



Chemical Waste



Hazardous Waste

NAME: _____

After You Read 



Post-Consumer Waste

4. Explain the difference between **pre-consumer waste** and **post-consumer waste**.

5. Explain the difference between **durable goods** and **nondurable goods**.

Extension & Application

6. **Keep track of your post-consumer waste.** Use the chart below to classify everything you throw away for one week. Multiple use items are products that you use more than one time before throwing them away.

DURABLE	NONDURABLE	
	Multiple Use	Disposable

Which column had the most entries after one week? _____

Brainstorm a list of ways that you could lessen the amount of disposable waste that you throw away.

4.

Answers will vary

11

pre-consumer: created before a product gets to a consumer;
post-consumer: created after a product gets to a consumer

5.

Answers will vary

12

Durable goods last much longer than nondurable goods

6.

Answers will vary

13

Answers will vary

EASY MARKING ANSWER KEY

10

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