



TEACHER GUIDE

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STUDENT HANDOUTS

• Reading Comprehension	
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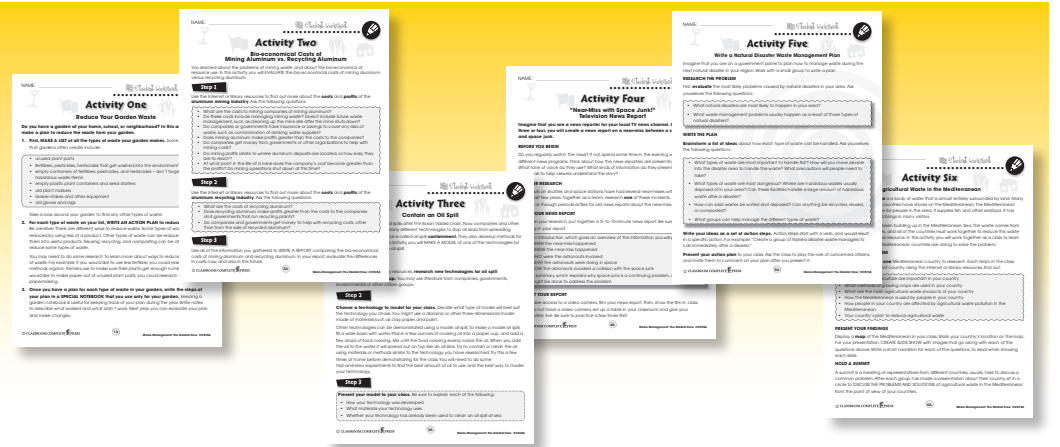
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NAME: _____



Waste Management Success Stories

1. Can you think of ways that your school or town could better manage waste? Write your ideas.

2. Explain the difference between the act of composting and the material compost. You may use a dictionary to help you.

3. Fill in each blank with the correct word from the list below. You may use a dictionary to help you.

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|---------|
| disposable | reduction | compost |
| biogas | incinerator | natural |

- _____ facilities turn food waste into a source of fuel.
- If you lessen the amount of waste you throw away, you are practicing waste _____.
- Trash is burned in an _____.
- _____ materials come from plants, animals, or the earth.
- Worms help turn plant waste into nutrient-rich _____.
- Products that are used once and then thrown away are _____.

NAME: _____



Waste Management Success Stories

How can communities reduce waste?

Communities all over the world have waste management problems. As communities grow and make more waste, people often decide to build new waste disposal facilities, such as landfills and incinerators. However, more communities are making the choice to face waste management problems in a new way. Many communities are setting the goal of **zero waste**.

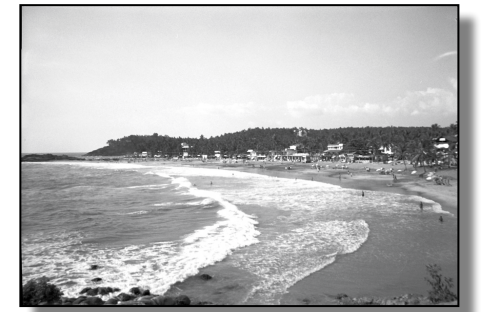
Zero waste is the goal of sending **nothing at all** to a landfill or incinerator. Everything used in the community must be reused, recycled, or composted. To do this, communities need to be very creative. One community practicing zero waste is the fishing village of Kovalam, in Kerala, India.



Describe the meaning of the term **zero waste**.

How does Kovalam practice zero waste?

Many people from all over the world come to visit Kovalam for its beautiful beaches on the shores of the Arabian Sea. However, when people visited, they brought a lot of waste. Over many years, the small village became overrun with waste. Waste piled up on beaches and along side roads. Some people suggested building an incinerator to burn the waste. But other people did not want the air pollution that comes from burning waste.



Instead, the people of Kovalam made the choice to practice zero waste. The people make and sell reusable containers for water and food out of natural materials such as coconut shells. They built a biogas plant that uses food waste to make fuel. They collect and recycle glass, metal, and plastic. Many farmers in the area have made the choice to stop using harmful pesticides and fertilizers. Now, Kovalam is a model for communities around the world that want to get rid of waste without harming people, wildlife, or beautiful natural places.

NAME: _____



Waste Management Success Stories

1. Write one of the place names below on each of the lines to tell where the activity took place. You may use each place name more than once.

- | | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Kovalam | Westside School, California | Canada |
|---------|-----------------------------|--------|

- _____ a) A biogas facility changes food waste into usable fuel.
- _____ b) Students sell compost to raise money for their school.
- _____ c) People make and sell reusable containers out of natural materials.
- _____ d) Schools participate in Waste Reduction Week.
- _____ e) Older students help younger students remember to recycle.
- _____ f) Trash from vacationers built up on the beaches.

2. Fill in each blank with the correct word from the list below.

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|------------|
| disposable | food waste | worms |
| pesticides | incinerator | zero waste |

- _____ help break down food waste in a compost bin.
- Lunch waste includes wrappers and other _____ containers.
- Communities that set the goal of _____ try not to send anything to landfills or incinerators.
- Students at Westside School _____ uneaten food instead of throwing it in the trash.
- Burning trash in an _____ can cause a lot of air pollution.
- Farmers near Kovalam have decided to stop using harmful _____.

NAME: _____



Waste Management Success Stories

3. How can you apply the lessons people learned in Kovalam, India, to your own town or local community?

4. Could your school have a program like the one at Westside Elementary? Explain how students at your school could change the way your school manages waste.

Extension & Application

5. Have a zero-waste lunch day at your school! First, make posters that explain the ways to lessen lunch waste, including:

- bringing food to school in reusable containers
- recycling all materials that can be recycled
- packing only the amount of food that you will really eat
- bringing uneaten food home to eat later instead of throwing it away

Then, have classrooms **compete** to have the least waste! Ask your principal or parents' group to donate a prize for the winning class. On the zero-waste day, students from each class should throw away their trash in separate class bins. At the end of lunch, a group of students can look in each bin to judge which class had the least trash.

Waste Management Success Story Documentary

In this activity, you will work in a small group to create a documentary about a group of people that has come up with creative ways to solve waste management problems.

First, use the Internet or library resources to research communities that have been successful at greatly reducing the waste that they produce. The community you choose might have the goal of **zero waste**. Once you find a community to report on, ask the following questions:

- What was the waste management problem that the community had to begin with?
- How did people come together to make a plan to address the problem?
- What steps did people take first?
- Did people learn to do different things with their waste?
- Did people build new facilities?

Gather any information about the waste management program that you can find.

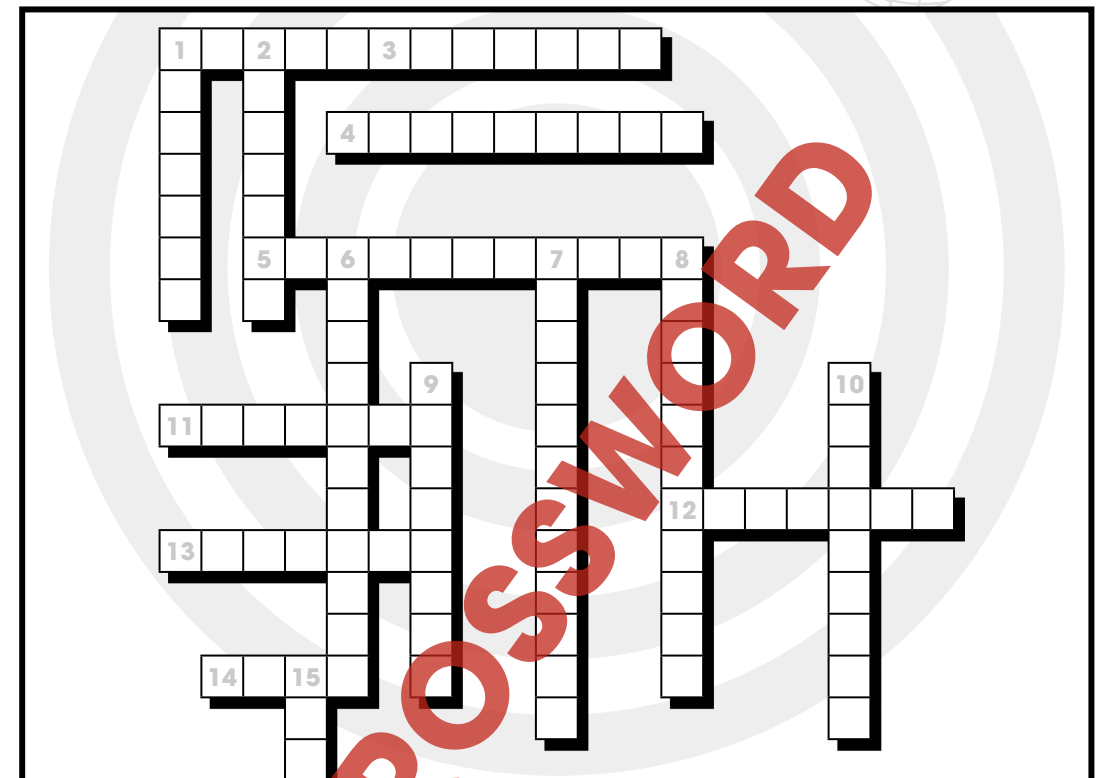
Second, watch a few documentaries to become familiar with the style. Think about how they are narrated, and how images are used to help the viewer understand the topic.

Third, write and produce a documentary about your community. Write the narration in a clear, descriptive style, and be sure the narrative covers all of the questions above. Plan how you will use images while the narrator is speaking. If possible, try to contact a representative from the community you researched. Ask the representative if you could tape them talking about their community, or if you could use some written quotes in your documentary.

Fourth, using a video camera, tape your documentary. You may want to start and stop the tape each time you change images. You can even record the narration separately and edit the tape together.

Finally, show your documentary in class!

Crossword Puzzle!



Across

1. the study of the costs of using natural resources
4. a substance used to kill insects
10. broken down organic matter
11. tidal wave
12. made by breakdown of food waste
13. fuel made from corn waste
14. place where rock is taken from the earth
16. space junk is in _____ around Earth

Down

1. plant waste that can be used to make fuel
2. farming method that doesn't use harmful pesticides
3. valuable mineral
6. to get into
7. activities related to farming
8. waste that releases harmful energy
9. result of an oil spill (2 words)
10. goal of sending nothing to a landfill (2 words)
15. a hurricane is a _____ disaster

Part C Comprehension Quiz

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. Describe **two** ways that farmers can lessen agricultural waste. 2

2. Describe **two** types of mining waste and **compare** the amount of harm each type of waste can cause. 4

3. Explain why an **oil spill** can be so harmful to a shoreline environment. Give examples to support your answer. 3

4. Describe **two** ways that hazardous waste can be released in a natural disaster. 2

5. Compare the **bio-economical cost** of throwing away food waste to composting food waste. 2

SUBTOTAL: /13

Agricultural Waste (Farmer Spraying Pesticide on Rice Field)



NAME: _____

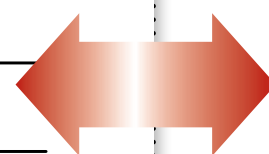
After You Read 



Waste Management Success Stories

3. How can you **apply** the lessons people learned in Kovalam, India, to your own town or local community?

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Extension & Application

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3.
Answers will vary

Answers will vary

12

4.
Answers will vary

Answers will vary

13

5.
Answers will vary

Answers will vary

14

11

Answers will vary

15



EASY MARKING ANSWER KEY