



Garbage Dilemma

(adapted from Environment Canada's publication *From the Mountains to the Sea: A Journey in Environmental Citizenship*)

Age: Grades 4-8

Lesson Plan Five: Forever Plastic

Objective: To help students understand that we all accumulate an enormous amount of "stuff" and to appreciate that in the process, we accumulate an enormous amount of garbage but that garbage should not be a matter of out of sight, out of mind.

Background: As our population continues to skyrocket we need to find ways to reduce the amount of garbage we produce as well as ways to dispose of it. The *Story of Stuff* in book form or the video, are great ways to get some perspective of just how much *stuff* is produced. Visit <http://storyofstuff.org/movies/story-of-stuff/> to see the movie.

Activity: Several communities across North America are looking for new sites to dispose of their garbage. Local populations say "Not in My Backyard" (This is called NIMBY.)

Where does garbage go in your community? (To the Land of AWAY?) This is opposite to the land of NIMBY. Everyone would like to send their garbage to the land of AWAY.

Obtain or draw a map of the area where you live.

Suppose it is obvious to everyone that the present landfill site cannot serve your community for more than two years.

A new garbage dump (landfill site) is needed. Where do you think it should go? Select a new location on the map. Are there people who might disagree with your choice? Who? Why?

Why not put the garbage dump closer to where you live? Why would you not want it there?

Can you come up with a creative solution that will please everybody



Challenge: Accompany your parents on their weekly grocery shopping trip.

- make a list of all packaging used
- make a list of smart packaging
- make a list of excessive packaging – size, layers, non-recyclable, different materials
- what is thrown away as soon as it arrives home?
- does your family use reusable shopping bags? If not, why not?
- write a letter to a store manager or a manufacturer to express your feelings about wasteful packaging
- encourage others to do the same – if enough people write, the message will get through
- be a problem solver. Suggest smart packaging ideas – for eg. Encourage the use of reusable shopping bags; question why things are packaged the way they are

More info contact: info@enuffsaid.com