



Environmental Education Center Upper Elementary Quiz

1. In the United States, how many pounds of solid waste per person are generated each day?

- a. ½ pound
- b. 1.8 pounds
- c. 2.5 pounds
- d. 4.38 pounds

2. What materials make up the top 50% of our waste? Are these materials recyclable/compostable?

3. List the main components of the waste management hierarchy in order of most to least preferred.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

4. Are the following source reduction and reuse ideas listed below the responsibility of the manufacturer or the consumer?

Idea/Practice	Manufacturer	Consumer	Both
Reduce product packaging			
Make products with less toxicity			
Reuse containers & products			
Buy reusable, long-lasting items			
Buy items in bulk			

5. One hundred tons of recycled paper saves an estimated:

- a. _____ trees
- b. _____ kilowatt hours of energy
- c. _____ gallons of water
- d. _____ pounds of air pollution
- e. _____ cubic yards of landfill space

6. How many cans could be made from recycled aluminum with the energy it takes to make 100 cans from bauxite ore?

7. Are steel cans 100% steel? If not, why not? Why couldn't cans be made out of tin?

8. What are 3 common contaminants in single stream recycling? Which is the worst? Why?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

WORST: _____

WHY?: _____

9. Why aren't there more Waste to Energy (WTE) facilities in the United States?

10. True or False: Televisions, Smart phones, CFL light bulbs, and rechargeable batteries are all banned from the landfill.

BONUS: Name something you can do outside to enjoy nature.



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Answer Key

Note: While these questions can be answered following a lesson in waste/recycling, these quizzes are best used during a tour of our Environmental Education Center.

1. In the United States, how many pounds of solid waste per person are generated each day?

d. 4.38 pounds

2. What materials make up the top 50% of our waste? Are these materials recyclable/compostable?

Paper/Paperboard (27.4%) + Food Waste (14.5%) + Yard Trimmings (13.5%) = 55.4%

Yes, food waste and yard trimmings are compostable. Paper is both recyclable and compostable.

3. List the main components of the waste management hierarchy in order of most to least preferred.

a. Source Reduction & Reuse

b. Recycling/Composting

c. Energy Recovery

d. Treatment & Disposal

4. Are the following source reduction and reuse ideas listed below the responsibility of the manufacturer or the consumer?

Idea/Practice	Manufacturer	Consumer	Both
Reduce product packaging	X		
Make products with less toxicity	X		
Reuse containers & products			X
Buy reusable, long-lasting items			X
Buy items in bulk			X

5. One hundred tons of recycled paper saves an estimated:

a. 1,700 trees

b. 410,000 kilowatt hours of energy

c. 700,000 gallons of water

d. 6,000 pounds of air pollution

e. 330 cubic yards of landfill space

Note: The table shows savings for 1 ton, so students need to multiply by 100.

6. How many cans could be made from recycled aluminum with the energy it takes to make 100 cans from bauxite ore?

2,000 cans (1 can made from bauxite ore = 20 cans made from recycled aluminum)

7. Are steel cans 100% steel? If not, why not? Why couldn't cans be made out of tin?

"Steel" cans are 99% steel with a thin layer of tin to prevent rusting. Tin couldn't be used for the whole can since it is rare, expensive, and too soft.

8. What are 3 common contaminants in single stream recycling? Which is the worst? Why?

Common Contaminants: Plastic bags, hoses, clothes, shoes, toys, strings of Christmas lights, microwaves, vacuums, diapers, propane/helium tanks, auto parts, foam packaging, yard waste, sporting equipment (bats, balls, gloves, shoulder pads, helmets)

Worst: Plastic bags cause safety issues and major damage to expensive MRF (material recovery facility) recycling machinery

9. Why aren't there more Waste to Energy (WTE) facilities in the United States?

The United States has more land and a lower population density than other countries where WTE facilities are more prevalent. Also, a WTE facility has huge start-up costs and faces much public opposition (NIMBY = Not in my backyard).

10. True or False: Televisions, Smart phones, CFL light bulbs, and rechargeable batteries are all banned from the landfill.

True

BONUS: Name something you can do outside to enjoy nature.

Answers will vary.



Environmental Education Center Lower Elementary Quiz

1. In the United States, how many pounds of solid waste per person are generated each day?

- a. ½ pound
- b. 1.8 pounds
- c. 2.5 pounds
- d. 4.38 pounds

2. What is the most common item found in our trash? Is it recyclable?

3. True or False: In landfills, some materials will never completely biodegrade due to waste compacting and lack of air.

4. Name a way you can reuse something, either to make it last longer or to keep it out of the landfill.

5. Each ton of recycled paper saves an estimated:

- a. _____ trees
- b. _____ kilowatt hours of energy
- c. _____ gallons of water
- d. _____ pounds of air pollution
- e. _____ cubic yards of landfill space

6. True or False: American can-makers produce about 100 billion aluminum beverage cans a year, equivalent to one can per American per day.

7. Name 3 things that are packaged in steel cans:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

8. How many plastic bottles does it take to make one extra-large T-shirt?

9. What are 3 common contaminants in single stream recycling? Which is the worst?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- c. _____

WORST: _____

10. True or False: Televisions, Smart phones, CFL light bulbs, and rechargeable batteries are all banned from the landfill.

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Note: While these questions can be answered following a lesson in waste/recycling, these quizzes are best used during a tour of our Environmental Education Center.

1. In the United States, how many pounds of solid waste per person are generated each day?

d. 4.38 pounds

2. What materials make up the top 50% of our waste? Are these materials recyclable/compostable?

Paper & Paperboard; Yes, they are easily recycled

3. True or False: In landfills, some materials will never completely biodegrade due to waste compacting and lack of air.

True

4. Name a way you can reuse something, either to make it last longer or to keep it out of the landfill.

Answers will vary.

5. One hundred tons of recycled paper saves an estimated:

a. 17 trees

a. 4,100 kilowatt hours of energy

a. 7,000 gallons of water

a. 60 pounds of air pollution

a. 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space

2. True or False: American can-makers produce about 100 billion aluminum beverage cans a year, equivalent to one can per American per day.

True

3. Name 3 things that are packaged in steel cans:

fruits, vegetables, soups, sauces, meats, juice, pet food, cleaning products, shoe polish, paint, and coffee

8. How many plastic bottles does it take to make one extra-large T-shirt?

Five

9. What are 3 common contaminants in single stream recycling? Which is the worst?

Common Contaminants: Plastic bags, hoses, clothes, shoes, toys, strings of Christmas lights, microwaves, vacuums, diapers, propane/helium tanks, auto parts, foam packaging, yard waste, sporting equipment (bats, balls, gloves, shoulder pads, helmets)

Worst: Plastic bags cause safety issues and major damage to expensive MRF (material recovery facility) recycling machinery

10. True or False: Televisions, Smart phones, CFL light bulbs, and rechargeable batteries are all banned from the landfill.

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