



Wastebusters 4Rs Curriculum

Grades K-5



CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA
SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

This curriculum has been developed to help your students understand and implement the 4Rs in school and at home. The topics and activities will get students more engaged in their environment and empower them to act. Science, social studies and art topics are introduced in the curriculum to create even more interest. We've included school-wide ideas and programs as well as grade-level appropriate activities for K-5, and additional resources for you to explore.

School-wide

School Wide Wastebusters Curriculum:

- Year Round Classroom Recycling
- Year Round Lunchroom Recycling
- Annual Earth Day Celebration
- Lunchtime Recycling Presentations
- Earthcapades Assembly
- Pass It On! Spread the 4Rs message at school, home and play!
- Go to wastediversion.org/schools for more ideas!

Kindergarten

Theme: "Wastebusters in Training"

Wastebusters Standard: Students will learn how to sort recycling from garbage.

Key Vocabulary: Garbage, recycling and Wastebuster

Wastebusters Curriculum Ideas:

- *Recycle Everyday* by Nancy E. Wallace
- Celebrate Earth Day! Awards can be given to kindergartners in April "graduating" the children to "Official Wastebusters" at the Earth Day Celebration.
- Incorporate FOSS (science curriculum) unit "Wood and Paper" and "Trees"
- Junkology Presentation (click here for information)
- Video: *Recycle Rex* (available at school libraries or CCCSWA)

First Grade

Theme: "Reduce"

Wastebusters Standard: Students will learn where garbage and recycling go after they leave school and home.

Key Vocabulary: Landfill, reduction, and recycling

Wastebusters Curriculum Ideas:

- Find the answers to these important questions through *Where Does All the Garbage Go?* by Melvin Berger:
 - "What is a landfill?"
 - "What is paper made of?"
 - "How can we reduce our water usage?"
- "Trash Math" p. 100 in *50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth* by The EarthWorks Group
- *Follow That Trash* by Francine Jacobs

Second Grade

Theme: “Reuse”

Wastebusters Standard: Students will learn about what it means to reuse and what can we reuse in our daily life.

Key Vocabulary: Reuse

Wastebusters Curriculum Ideas:

- Talk to art teacher about a reuse art project
- Have a “Reuse” box in the classroom
- Earth Day Fashion Show
- Put a Lid on it p. 60 in *50 Things*
- Junkology Presentation
- *Drip! Drop!* By Barbara Seuling

Third Grade

Theme: “Recycle”

Wastebusters Standard: Students will learn what is recyclable, where recycling goes after our bins and if water is recyclable.

Key Vocabulary: Recycle

Wastebusters Curriculum Ideas:

- Make recycled paper p. 131 in *50 Things*
- “Get to know your garbage” p. 43 in *50 Things*
- “Cans for a Cause” p. 105 in *50 Things*
- “A Clear Choice” p. 18 in *50 Things*
- “Be A Recycling Detective” p 45 in *50 Things*
- “Recycle City” on www.epa.gov

Fourth Grade

Theme: “Rot”

Wastebusters Standard: Students will learn why it is important to compost and what they can compost. Students will learn what the worms do to create compost.

Key Vocabulary: Rot and compost

Wastebusters Curriculum Ideas:

- Develop and manage compost or worm bin
- “Recycle Leftovers” p. 88 in *50 Things*
- View “Vermi the Worm” at www.ciwmb.ca.gov
- “Worm World” at www.epa.gov
- Gardens at Heather Farms presentation on compost (click here for more information)

Fifth Grade

Theme: “Becoming a WORLD Wastebuster”

Wastebusters Standard: Students will understand the 4 R's and be willing to apply ideas to real world situations today and in their future.

Key Vocabulary: Source reduction, reduce, reuse, rot and recycle.

Wastebusters Curriculum Ideas:

- MRF field trip (sign up at wastediversion.org) and see www.pacificrimrecycling.com (video 3.htm)
- Write a letter to government officials about the environment p. 44 in *50 Things*
- Learn to be a better consumer. Go to www.ciwmb.ca.gov/rcp (The Recycled Content Product Directory) and find 5 products that your family might purchase.
- Video: *Taking Back our Trash II*

Resources for all grades: Visit the school library to find environmental education books or ask the school librarian for books and information. Share this curriculum with your science or art teachers. See wastediversion.org/schools for more curriculum ideas.

Websites: www.wastediversion.org
www.epa.gov/kids
www.ciwmb.ca.gov
www.kidsrecycle.org

For more information or recycling help, call:
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www.wastediversion.org



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