



The following four lessons have been developed to use with students before and after their tour of the Puente Hills Landfill or another landfill site.

- Lessons 1 and 2 are to be conducted before students take the tour.
- Lessons 3 and 4 should be conducted after the tour.

The goal is for students to understand the importance of landfills in disposing of our solid waste and to learn practices that reduce the amount of solid waste we produce, thus saving natural resources, including the land needed for landfills.

The concepts that students will learn include:

- People produce many types of solid waste.
- The amount of waste can be decreased through reducing, reusing, and recycling.
- Reducing waste saves money, energy, and the environment.
- Landfills are commonly used to dispose of solid waste.
- Landfills are designed to protect the environment.
- Many natural resources in solid waste are lost once they are buried in landfills.
- Packaging is a major component of our solid waste.
- People buy and throw away many disposable products.
- People can reduce the amount of solid waste they generate by making thoughtful and informed choices when they buy products.
- Most products made by people don't have to be thrown away and can be kept in a cycle through reusing and recycling.



An outline overviewing all four lessons is shown on the following page.

These lessons have been adapted from *Closing the Loop: Exploring Integrated Waste Management and Resource Conservation*, developed by the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

SOLID WASTE LESSONS OVERVIEW

Lesson 1:	CLASS WASTE AUDIT	7
<i>Pre-Tour</i>		
	I. Collect waste for about one week	
	II. Analyze trash	
	III. Discuss results of analysis	
	IV. Plan ways to reduce trash	
	Extensions	
	Background Information	
	Masters	
	- <i>Class Waste Analysis</i>	
Lesson 2:	FILL A LANDFILL	15
<i>Pre-Tour</i>		
	I. Determine what solid waste is and where it goes	
	II. Construct landfill models	
	III. Prepare for field trip	
	IV. Analyze contents of model landfills (<i>four weeks later</i>)	
	Extensions	
	Background Information	
	Masters	
	- <i>Construction of a Landfill in a Bottle</i>	
	- <i>Layers in a Landfill</i>	
Lesson 3:	BUYER BEWARE	25
<i>Post-Tour</i>		
	I. Analyze why we buy products	
	II. Analyze packaging	
	III. Discuss buying decisions	
	Extensions	
	Background Information	
	Masters	
	- <i>Why Do We Buy It?</i>	
Lesson 4:	CYCLES	33
<i>Post-Tour</i>		
	I. Categorize objects by natural resource base	
	II. Discuss cycles	
	III. Examine life cycle of various objects	
	IV. Plan recycling	
	Extensions	
	Background Information	
	Masters	
	- <i>Papermaking: One Way or a Cycle?</i>	