

Facts About Trash

To Share With Your Students

Waste from packaging accounts for 30% of all waste generated each year.

A Scrap of paper lying on the ground will take a full month to decompose and a pop can doesn't disappear for over 200 years.

The average person generates 600 times their adult weight in garbage during their lifetime.

Americans go through 2.5 million plastic bottles every hour.

A ton of recycled paper saves 17 trees and three cubic yards of landfill space.

More than 70% of all the waste generated in the United States could be recycled.

2.1 Billion Pounds of cigarette filters were discarded worldwide in 1998.

Plastic bags will take 10-20 years to biodegrade. Biodegrade means to break down naturally.

Aluminum cans will take 80 – 100 years to biodegrade.

Glass Bottles will take 1 million years to biodegrade.

Plastic Bottles will never biodegrade.

The annual cost of roadside litter control nationwide is \$155 million.

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The items most often found during litter clean ups are cigarette butts and fast food wrappers.

Each individual produces four to five pounds of trash daily, amounting to one ton of trash yearly.

A family of three produces approximately five pound of used newspaper a week, 20 pounds a month, or 250 pounds a year.

Most littering occurs within 5 meters of a garbage can.

Litter impacts real estate values. Good stores and important businesses will not locate in a community that lacks the pride to effectively control litter.

Men litter twice as much as women.

Taken from Keep Alliance Beautiful, 205 W. 4th Ave., PO Box 324, Alliance, NE 69301
Phone & Fax: (308) 762-1729



WASTE SERVICES, INC.

713-787-9790

www.vfwasteservices.com