

Waste and Our World Study Guide

Your child should be able to use the notes taken in class along with experiments to answer the following questions.

1. God has challenged us to take care of His world. How can you be a steward (in charge of or taking care of) of God's creation in your yard?

Some examples include:

- Pick up litter
 - Clean up animal wastes
 - Avoid chemicals
 - Don't store junk
2. Mold is an example of a decomposer. Your child should be able to provide a definition of a decomposer and list examples of decomposers
 - A decomposer is an organism that causes the breakdown and decay of dead plant and animal matter.
 - Ants, earthworms, fungi, lichens, wireworms, beetles, mushrooms, millipedes, centipedes, carpenter ants, isopods, red wigglers, etc.
 - Worm composting is another way to get rid of some biodegradable wastes.
 - Organic materials like apple cores, coffee grounds, banana peels are good for a worm compost bin.
 - Pop cans, plastic wrap, granola bar wrappers are not good for a worm compost bin.
 3. Humans breathe out carbon dioxide. Plants use carbon dioxide as food to produce oxygen which humans and animals need to survive.
 4. What does Biodegradable mean?
 - Able to decompose in nature. Able to be broken down or decay.
 - If something takes many years to biodegrade we say that it is not really biodegradable.
 5. There are several ways of getting rid of waste. Your child should be able to describe what occurs in each method.

- Landfill: garbage is sent to the landfill where it is compacted into cells and then covered with dirt on a daily basis. Safe garbage is kept here and is finally converted to park land or golf courses.
 - Burning: items are placed in an incinerator and are burned. However, burning releases pollutants like smoke and carbon dioxide which may be hazardous or toxic.
 - Recycling: taking items that have been used before and reusing them or turning them into centers where they can be broken down and used for other things.
6. Our community does a good job of getting rid of waste in an ECO-friendly way. Our community has had a big push to adapt to the Green Routine. Your child should be able to list some of the ways garbage is handled in Sherwood Park and Strathcona County.
- Green bin - what does in it and what should not
 - Black bin - what sorts of things should go in the black bin
 - Blue bag for recycling
7. Your child should be able to identify examples of toxic waste vs. non-toxic waste. If given a list of waste items, they should be able to sort them accordingly.
8. Your child should be able to explain how toxic waste materials should be disposed of and **why** toxic waste items can't be thrown in the landfill.
9. Your child should be able to identify and match toxic waste symbols with their names: corrosive, poisonous, flammable, corrosive
10. Your child should be able to explain what items could be put in a compost bin and **why**.

Any information in science work books is fair game for the unit test! Please be reading through and reviewing with your child to help them prepare. Thank you for your support!

