

Suzy's World

Rubbish - How much rubbish does a person make in one day?

Fact

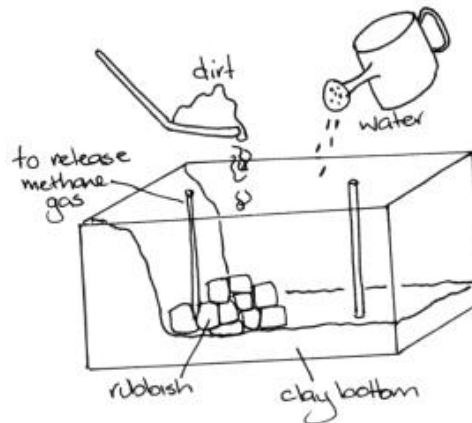
- Rubbish is the solid stuff we put in a rubbish bag or bin for the rubbish collector to take away.
- Statistics show that in New Zealand the average person makes 2.5 kilos of solid waste a day. (More than the average person in Australia, America or just about anywhere!)
- Solid waste is the stuff we put in a rubbish bag or bin for the rubbish collector to take away.
- There are three ways to lower the amount of rubbish we make ever day. We can reuse, recycle and reduce. If we can't reuse something sometimes we can give it away to people who can – like clothes and toys. We can sort out our plastics and glass and tins for recycling. And we can reduce the amount of rubbish we throw away by buying things that have recyclable packaging and composting all our food scraps.



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Do you know

- The rubbish collector takes our rubbish to a landfill – a huge pit in the ground that is regularly covered by dirt, clay or sawdust and compacted down.
- As the rubbish breaks down in the landfill gases are released like methane. Landfill areas often have what looks like chimneystacks coming out of the landfill to release those gases.
- Some landfill companies can use the methane from the rubbish to generate electricity to run their machines.
- Organisations find out how much rubbish a city or country makes by weighing each truck or trailer or car full of rubbish coming into the landfill.
- Other countries make less rubbish than we do because they have more recycling options.



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Experiments you can do

Have a good look at the sorts of rubbish you throw into the bin. Can you reuse or recycle it? Maybe your school has a recycling system or composting system. If it does find out what kinds of things are put through those systems.

Other Investigations

Next time you're at the supermarket helping with the shopping have a look at the different types of packaging. Some brands will use different types of packaging than others – which ones are recyclable.

