

---

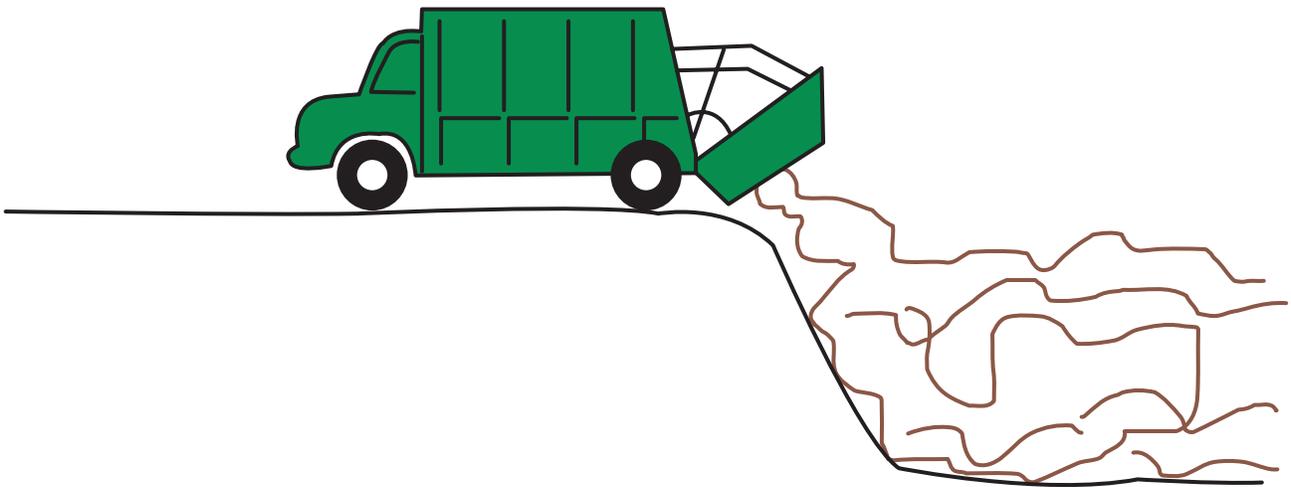
# Where Does the Trash Go?

## Goals:

- ♻️ To demonstrate how trash is compacted and buried in a landfill.
- ♻️ To help children understand that a landfill has a limited capacity.
- ♻️ To help children realize that they can affect other peoples' behavior by encouraging them to recycle.

## Background:

Landfills are filling up quickly and this problem directly affects all of us. Already many landfills are closing and will continue to do so over the next few years. Families, friends and neighbors must work together to reduce the amount of trash heading to a landfill. A community that reduces, reuses and recycles will extend the life of its landfill and natural resources. Young children can have as big of an impact as older folks when it comes to solving our solid waste problem. We all must say, "Recycle now, here's how!"



---

## Make a Sandbox Landfill

### Materials:

Sandbox, dirt pile, multi-sensory table or dish pan half full of dirt  
Modeling clay  
Small pieces of trash from your classroom  
Toy bulldozers and tractors (optional)

### Procedure:

1. Show your children the way trash is discarded in a landfill by taking them to a sandbox, dirt pile or dish pan of dirt. Let your children dig a hole in the dirt or sand.
2. Line the hole with the modeling clay. Explain to your children that the liner prevents the landfill from "leaking."
3. Cover the clay with a layer of dirt or sand.
4. Crush some of your classroom trash as tightly as you can and put it in the hole.
5. Have you children cover the trash with a layer of dirt or sand. (Let them use toy tractors or bulldozers to cover the trash.) Add another layer of trash and another layer of dirt or sand.
6. Talk about how quickly the landfill becomes full.
7. Put a clay layer cover over the landfill and add a final cover of dirt. Tell your children that the landfill is "sealed" and this is where their trash will stay.

# The Stories of Travis Trash and Wee Ron

## Materials:

10 story pages\*  
Clear contact paper  
Binder rings or yarn  
Landfill picture\*

\* Found in

**Wee Recyclers Online Resources,**  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/eek/teacher/weerecyclers.htm>

## Preparation:

 Print out the story pages from the **Wee Recyclers Online Resources**. Note: read pages horizontally; the binder holes appear along the upper edge of one story and along the lower edge of the other. When you bind the pages together, you can work the book like a flip chart. As you flip pages, the “Wee Ron” story will appear on the upper page and the “Travis Trash” story will appear on the lower page.

 Cover the pages with contact paper or laminate and re-punch the binder holes.

 Stack the pages in order and bind together with binder rings or yarn pieces. Pages should flip easily.

## Procedure:

1. Read “Travis Trash” to the children first. Talk about what happens in Trashtown. Notice that Travis and his fellow townspeople say, “It’s okay, throw it away.”
2. Read “Wee Ron” by flipping through the book again reading the upper half of the page. Talk about what happens in Recycle City. Notice that Ron and his fellow townspeople say, “Recycle now, here’s how!”
3. Discuss the two stories using the “Let’s Talk About It” questions.

**Note:** Because of the short attention span of children, take a break between reading each story.

## Let’s Talk About It:

After reading both stories, flip through the book again holding both pages open. Ask the following questions: (Question numbers correspond to page numbers.)

1. Where does Travis Trash live? Where does Wee Ron live?
2. Which family uses things only once and then throws them away? Which family uses things over and over again?
3. Which family throws away more trash each week? Which family recycles?
4. What does Trashtown do with its glass, plastic, paper and cans? What does Recycle City do with its glass, plastic, paper and cans?
5. In which city does the garbage truck take less trash to the landfill each week?
6. What’s happening to the landfill in Trashtown? What’s happening to the recycling containers in Recycle City?
7. In which city is the landfill only half full? In which city is the landfill completely full?
8. In the end, which city is worried and sad? In the end, which city is proud and happy?

## Going Beyond:

 Show the children the landfill picture from the **Wee Recyclers Online Resources**. Discuss what they see in the picture and what happens at a sanitary landfill.

 Pretend Play: Make garbage and recycling trucks out of old shoe boxes. Pretend to take trash to a landfill. Pick up recyclable items and take them to the Wee Recycling Center.

 Arrange to visit a landfill.

