



# The Waste Hierarchy: Where is "Away"?



## IN A NUTSHELL

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**Cost:** \$19.99 + s&h teacher's guide  
\$169.99 + s&h for complete kit

### SUBJECTS

Mathematics  
Science  
Social Studies

The waste hierarchy refers to four levels of waste treatment: landfill, incineration, reuse/recycle, and source reduction. This teaching unit uses this hierarchy to introduce the issue of solid waste, to make students aware of their own waste generation, and to give them practice in issue resolution. The first of six exercises introduces the hierarchy and involves students in measuring the waste created by their own household. In the four activities that follow, students conduct scientific and mathematical experiments on the four levels of waste treatment. The final activity is a role-play in which students consider the positive and negative consequences of different waste disposal plans. Activities list time requirements, background information, safety suggestions, discussion questions, and answers to student worksheets. Text includes a glossary, transparency masters, and a conceptual overview. A kit containing all the supplies needed for the activities is also available.

**Grade Level**  
6-9

**Length**  
154 pages

**Date Published**  
1993

THE BOTTOM  
LINE

"Shows students that science plays a useful role in their everyday lives, and that what they are learning in science will help them understand their environment."

	Key Characteristics	Strengths Noted	Other Considerations
What the REVIEWERS Said !	Fairness and Accuracy	Cites information sources and participants in field test. Encourages inquiry and exploration of different viewpoints.	May understate the problems associated with landfills and incinerators.
	Depth	Presents concepts in context. Addresses history as well as current issues. Includes problems faced in lower-income areas.	
	Emphasis on Skills Building	Makes use of math/science skills. Students are challenged to think critically.	
	Action Orientation	Challenges students to find ways to reduce their own waste generation.	
	Instructional Soundness	Makes connection to everyday lives. Clearly states goals and objectives. Activities are learner-centered and interdisciplinary.	Most learning is in the classroom. May be too advanced for stated age group.
	Usability	Material is clear, logical, and easily adaptable	Cost of kit (chemicals and supplies) is an additional expense.

"May be used by beginning and experienced educators."

"This is a great tool for teaching about waster reduction. It lets students experiment and form their own conclusions."