

Home Investigations



Name:



URBAN GREEN LAB™

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HOME INVESTIGATION 4

Solid Waste and Litter



Start Here!

Solid Waste is trash, garbage, or anything else you throw away to keep your home safe and clean like papers, empty containers, or broken toys. If we don't recycle or reuse solid waste, it can become litter or is buried in a landfill. Let's learn how to reduce our solid waste by reducing, reusing, and recycling some of these materials!



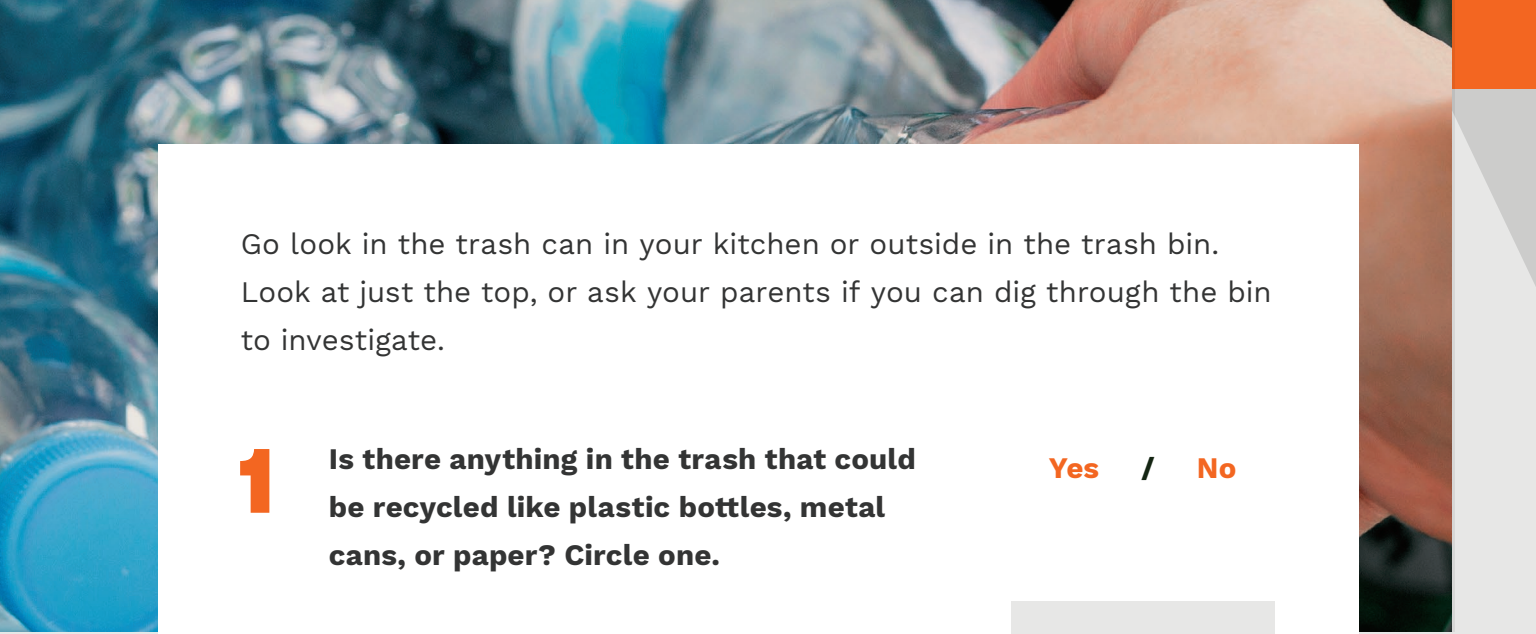
Investigator's Notebook: Ready Set Go!

Now let's collect and analyze some data.

Does your home have any of the following bins or boxes?

Circle Yes or No.

Types of Bins	Yes or No?
Trash Bin	Yes / No
Recycling Bin	Yes / No
Composting Bin	Yes / No



Go look in the trash can in your kitchen or outside in the trash bin. Look at just the top, or ask your parents if you can dig through the bin to investigate.

1 Is there anything in the trash that could be recycled like plastic bottles, metal cans, or paper? Circle one.

Yes / No

If yes, how many items?

2 Is there any food in the trash that could be composted?

Yes / No

If yes, how many items?

3 What is one item you found that can be **reused** instead of thrown in a landfill? Describe what it is and how it could be reused.

4 What is one item that you found that could be **reduced** by using less of it so less solid waste will end up in the landfill?



Looking Outside

Now let’s look outside! Sometimes people don’t put waste where it belongs—in a trash can or recycling bin—and it becomes **litter**. Litter is waste left in open spaces that can harm the environment and public health. It is important to do our part to keep the Earth clean.

- 1 Go outside and walk around your home. Walk 20 steps or more and count how many pieces of litter you find. Mark what you find in the chart below.

Litter Item	What is it made of?	Can it be recycled?	Should it be put in a trash bin?

Tip! If you don’t know if something can be recycled you might find a sign on the recycling bin, you can look it up online, or ask a teacher.

Special Thanks

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



SPECIAL THANKS

A special thanks to the Atticus Trust, the Louis M. and Betty M. Phillips Foundation, and all of our individual supporters.

Want to make your home more sustainable? Share this website with your family to learn about local resources.

→ **www.urbangreenlab.org**



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