

It All Adds Up!

Recycling is important. Can one person's effort really make a difference? You bet! Especially when that effort is multiplied by a whole school, city, or state. Read the fun facts below. Then use the information to solve the word problems and find out how recycling adds up.

FACT

1

342 pounds of paper are recycled for every person in the United States each year. That much paper weighs about the same amount as six second-graders.

FACT

3

Every ton of paper that's recovered for recycling saves 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space. That is about the same size as a small refrigerator.

FACT

2

Currently, the United States recycles more than 50 percent of the paper products it consumes. That adds up to more than 50 million tons of paper each year. But we can do even better! The U.S. paper industry wants to increase the recovery rate to 55 percent by the year 2012, which is good for the environment.



Photo: tom paper. © Don Hammond/Design Pics/age fotostock, inc.

Questions

- If all of the six second-graders mentioned in Fact #1 weighed the same, how much would each of them weigh?
 - 50 pounds
 - 57 pounds
 - 60 pounds
 - 339 pounds
- Reread Fact #2. If the paper industry reaches its goal of recovering 55 percent of the paper consumed, how many million tons of paper will be recycled each year?
 - 55 million tons
 - 75 million tons
 - 2,012 million tons
 - nobody knows
- Imagine that you have started a recycling program at your school. You recover three tons of paper over a year. How much space would you save in the local landfill?
 - 6.6 cubic yards
 - 9.9 cubic yards
 - 12 cubic yards
 - 16 cubic yards
- A local television station runs a story about your school's new recycling program. You and your classmates are stars! Before you know it, nine other schools in your area have started similar programs. If each school is as successful as yours (see question 3), how many tons of paper will the other schools recover?
 - 9 tons
 - 27 tons
 - 30 tons
 - 50 tons
- The board of education is impressed! It duplicates your program for all 2,000 schools in your state. If each school recovers as much paper as your school did, how much paper is recycled?
 - 6,000 tons
 - 9,000 tons
 - 19,800 cubic yards
 - 19,810 cubic yards