

How Much Do You Know? A Family Quiz

Take this quiz home to complete with your family. Bring it back to class for discussion.

1. Which two types of materials do you think make up 80 percent of all school trash?

- A. glass and food waste C. paper and food waste
B. plastic and metal D. plastic and paper

- Which two materials make up most of the trash you throw away during the school day? _____ and _____
- Are these materials recyclable? _____

Fast Trash Fact: In 2005, U.S. residences, businesses, and institutions produced more than 245 million tons of municipal solid waste (that's trash and garbage), which is approximately 4.5 pounds of waste per person per day.

2. About how many sheets of paper do you use each day, including those given to you by your teachers?

- A. 0–2 C. 5–6
B. 3–4 D. 7 or more

- If you recycled the paper you use just one day per week, how many sheets could you save over a month's time? _____
- During the whole school year? _____

Fast Recycling Fact: While recycling practices have grown in general, recycling of specific materials has grown even more drastically: 50 percent of all paper, 34 percent of all plastic soft drink bottles, 45 percent of all aluminum beer and soft drink cans, 63 percent of all steel packaging, and 67 percent of all major appliances are now recycled.

3. Recycled plastic drink bottles are now being used to make which of the following items:

- A. iPods, cell phones C. plastic display food
B. ski jackets, sleeping bags D. all of the above

- About how many plastic drink bottles does your family use each week? _____
- How many does your family recycle? _____

4. Which type of lightbulb is most electrically efficient?

- A. neon C. incandescent
B. compact fluorescent D. halogen

- What type of lightbulbs does your school use in your classroom(s)? _____
- What type of lightbulbs do you use at home? _____
- Do you switch off the lights when you're not in the room? _____

Fast Lighting Fact: If every American home replaced just one lightbulb with a high-efficiency bulb, we would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes for a year and more than \$600 million in annual energy costs, while preventing greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of more than 800,000 cars.

5. Green power can be generated from energy sources such as:

- A. wind and sun C. trash and dead branches
B. water and heat from the Earth's core D. all of the above

Which types of green power (alternative energy sources) are being used in the area where you live?

Fast Energy Fact: Wind power is becoming more and more important as an energy source. Siemens has been active in the area of wind energy since 1970 and has since installed over 5,800 wind turbines with a capacity of 4.5 gigawatts. These save more than 8 million tons of CO₂ a year.

