

I'M DIRTY!

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By Kate and Jim McMullan

Ages: 3-7

Themes: Waste Management and Disposal,
Community Jobs, Enjoying Work

Running Time: 8 minutes

SUMMARY

From the creators of *I Stink!* comes a firsthand look into the life of a backhoe. Ever wonder who takes care of the big, dirty jobs in the community? It's the backhoe, with its boom, dipper stick, chompers, steel arms, and loader bucket, all serving a different and important purpose. The backhoe goes into the dirtiest, messiest, places in the city to take care of old tires, couches, and toilet seats. Old rotten tree stump? No problem for the backhoe who digs, and tears, and cuts, until the mess is gone. Students will love this backhoe's tough attitude and no-nonsense approach to getting the job done.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn about the job of a backhoe.
- Students will learn about city cleanup and jobs.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Do a KWL chart (What I Know, What I Want to Know, and What I Learned) with the students.

Guiding questions:

- How do big lots get cleaned up and cleared?
- What happens to the trash in the dump?
- What kinds of machines are needed to do big, heavy jobs, such as removing trees and rocks?

Revisit this chart after viewing the video to fill in the What I Learned section.

Talk with students about jobs and careers. Ask students about who takes care of the city or town that they live in. What are important community jobs that need to be done? Who does those jobs? List students' ideas on chart paper. Then, tell students that they are about to see a movie that stars a backhoe, one of the most important pieces of equipment for getting heavy-duty jobs done.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Revisit the KWL chart. Guiding questions:

- What kinds of jobs can a backhoe take care of?
- Where would you see a backhoe at work?
- What are the different parts of a backhoe and how are they used?

Have a drama/movement class in which students act out the different movements and sounds of a backhoe. Read the book, *I'm Dirty!* aloud while the children interpret the action.

Show students a large photograph or slide of a real backhoe. Using the descriptions from the movie, label the different parts of the backhoe. With each label, help students brainstorm the function of each part. Then, provide students with a copy of the photograph or an outline of a backhoe for them to color and label on their own.

Focus on the part of the movie where the backhoe has to clean up an empty lot that wasn't supposed to be used for dumping. Discuss with students the problems incurred by dumping garbage in places that it's not supposed to go. Guiding questions:

- Where does garbage go after it is collected from your house?
- Why should we NOT dump garbage wherever we want to?

- What does garbage everywhere make a city or community look like?
- How does garbage hurt the environment?
- What should we do with our garbage?
- What kinds of things can be recycled and used again for other purposes?

Take a field trip to a local land fill. Arrange for an employee to talk to the children about where all the garbage comes from and what happens to it over time. This is an excellent time to introduce ideas such as biodegrading and recycling.

Set up the school sandbox or a sand table with model backhoes and other types of work vehicles. Put rocks, model cars, and other model toys into the sandbox also. Let children explore and play in the sandbox or sand table, using the different work vehicles. Challenge them to use the work vehicles to clear out the whole sandbox or sand table. Afterwards, ask: Was that challenging work? How did the different vehicles help in different ways?

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