

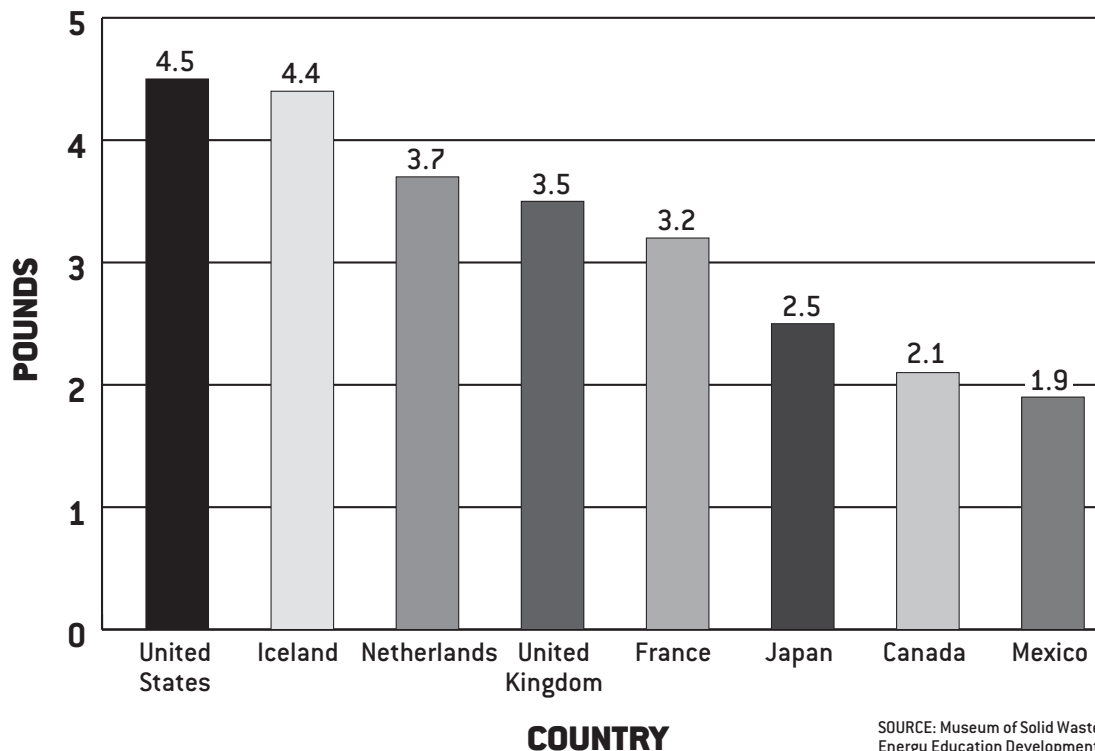
READING A GRAPH

WHAT A WASTE!

As you go about your day, how often do you throw something out? If you were to add everything up at the end of the day, how much do you suppose it would weigh?

This graph shows the amount of stuff that people toss out each day, in an average of pounds per person. Study it. What does it suggest about the way in which people live in each of the countries shown?

Waste Generated Around the World (in pounds per person per day)



SOURCE: Museum of Solid Waste and Energy/National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project, 2008

QUESTIONS

Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

- How many pounds of waste does an average American produce in a day?
- Which of the European countries shown generates the least waste per person?
- How much more waste, per person, do Americans generate than people in the Asian country shown?
- Which generates more waste per person, the U.S. or its two North American neighbors combined?
- How many pounds of waste does an average American generate in a year?
- How long would it take an average American to generate one ton (2,000 pounds) of waste?
- How long would it take an average French person?
- Does Iceland's level of waste generation surprise you? Why or why not?
- Which continents are not represented on this graph? Why do you think that is?
- What kinds of waste that you produce every day do you think are needless? How could you reduce your waste?