

Metro Central Transfer Station Virtual Tour – Online

3rd-5th Grade

PRE– Virtual Tour Activity

“What’s Up with Ancient Things?”



Why are we talking about things that people left behind? What do these leftover “ancient things” tell us? They tell us about our history, what we valued and even what we worshiped. They can tell us about our habits, our technology and our ecosystems. A lot can be learned from what people leave behind! In fact, there are scientists who study these leftover “ancient things”! Do you know what they are called? *Archaeologists!* They examine the leftover items of civilizations to gain insight about how people lived.

**(Photo to the left) Photo credit: Pasquale Sorrentino This artificial hill called Monte Testaccio, is made up almost entirely of jars that once held olive oil from an ancient Roman province in southern Spain. Their findings tell us a lot about the culture, food and economy of the Romans from 250 A.D. (almost 1,800 years ago)*

We also talk about these “ancient things” because it helps us understand where materials come from (natural resources), where these materials might end up (recycled, sent to a landfill, etc.) and how the way we handle or discard our unwanted materials, can have an impact on our community and environment.

Let’s talk about “today’s things”. Imagine you take your unwanted things or trash out to the dumpster or curb, with a family member. What happens next? Write, draw, or create a map below or on a piece of paper where you think your unwanted things or trash go after it leaves your home.

Vocabulary:

Climate change: Describes a change in the average conditions — such as temperature and rainfall — in a region over a long period of time.

Falconry: the art of training falcons and hawks to hunt

Household Hazardous Waste: It is a type of waste created from our households that can be dangerous, or is capable of having a harmful effect on human health or the environment.

Indigenous: originating in a particular region or place; native.

Methane gas: a type of greenhouse gas that can trap heat in the earth's atmosphere. Sunlight passes through the atmosphere, but the gas prevents the heat that came with the sunlight from leaving the atmosphere.

Midden: the archaeological term for trash or garbage heap. Contains a large amount of artifacts often from the discard of waste, food remains, and materials such as broken tools.

Natural resource: something, such as a forest, a mineral deposit, or fresh water, that is found in nature and is necessary or useful to humans.

Repair: to restore to a good or sound condition after decay or damage; to fix

Resist: to refrain or abstain from; to avoid. *Example: Resisting upgrades and resisting buying new things are actions we can take to conserve natural resources.*

Reuse: to put an item or material into service again; make use of again

Transfer station: A space that holds trash, food waste and recyclables temporarily.

Virtual Tour Video

“Beyond the Trash Can”

Once you have explained where you think your unwanted things or trash go after it leaves your home, watch the following “Beyond the Trash Can” video:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/OregonMetro/videos>

During or after the video, complete the “Beyond the Trash Can” virtual tour worksheet. (Next page)

Virtual Tour Worksheet

“Beyond the Trash Can”

Name: _____

Transfer stations play an important role in a community’s waste management system. They serve as the link between a community’s garbage collection program, such as haulers and a final waste disposal facility like a landfill.

1. How many people does Metro serve? _____
2. The Metro Central site is located where the Willamette and Columbia Rivers meet. Name at least one indigenous tribe that call or have called this region home? _____
3. PPE stands for Personal Protective E_____
4. What is a hauler? _____
5. A space that holds trash, food waste and recyclables temporarily is called a _____.
6. Can you name one thing that transfer station workers do to help keep the trash moving or to keep people safe?

7. True or False (circle one) Motor oil, paint and medical syringes can go in our regular trash.
8. Reusing, repairing and resisting upgrades are actions we can take beyond re_____ to help our planet.
9. 20-30% of our household trash is _____.
10. True or False (circle one) Food in our trash rots and releases methane gas which contributes to climate change.
11. Collected food scraps from transfer stations can be turned into _____ or _____.
12. Planning our meals and _____ our food right are actions we can take to get the most out of our food.
13. What does the falconry team do at the transfer station?

14. Where is our landfill located? _____
15. How often did Ron visit the tour? _____



POST – Virtual Tour Activity

Extension activities:

1) After watching the video, write, draw or create a map below or on a separate piece of paper where your unwanted things or trash go after it leaves your home. Does it match where you originally thought these things went prior to the video? What is different? What is the same? What surprised you?

2) Haulers and transfer station workers are essential in maintaining a healthy and safe community for everyone. Imagine that these essential workers were unable to pick up our trash anymore. How would that impact your school? How would that impact your community? Share your thoughts through writing or drawing below or on a separate piece of paper.

Taking (next) Steps with our Trash

Many natural resources and energy go into making, transporting and disposing of things. Reusing, repairing and resisting upgrades or the buying of new things, are actions we can take beyond recycling to help our planet. Can you share an example of how you (and/or your family) reuse, repair or resist at home or at school? How did you learn how to practice that R? Write or draw your response below or on a separate piece of paper.



Looking for other ideas?

Reuse

Reuse leftovers in your next meal

Reuse old t-shirts by cutting them up into rags for cleaning

Reuse rigid plastic containers from food packaging for storage of food or small items like screws

Repair

Repair your clothes with patches or light sewing before discarding

Repair your backpacks before discarding. Many brands have guarantees on their products and will repair your items for free

Repair your electronic devices when possible

Resist

Resist upgrades on your game stations and devices

Resist buying new clothes and instead shop at reuse stores

Resist using disposables such as plastic forks and instead pack your own durable fork in your back pack

If your family would like more information about where or how to dispose of your trash, household hazardous waste or recycling, have your adult contact our **Recycling Information Center at 503-234-3000**.

If your family or classroom would like more information about our transfer stations tours and other educational programming or resources, please contact nicole.hernandez@oregonmetro.gov