

Beyond the Garbage Can: Metro Central virtual tour

Name: _____



1) Metro Central is built on the traditional village sites of many tribes who have lived there for thousands of years. What are the names of these groups shared in the tour? Pick one and spend at least 5 minutes researching. What is one new piece of information you learned?

2) What is a transfer station?

3) Imagine you are standing at the entrance to Bay 2. What would you see? What would you hear? How would you feel?

4) Why do we have a Household Hazardous Waste facility? List three hazardous items that cannot go into the regular trash at home.

5) Practices such as reusing, repairing, and resisting (buying less new stuff) help people and the planet more than recycling does. Why do you think that is? Can you give an example of reusing? Repairing? Resisting?

6) Meal planning and storing food correctly are ways to make sure food doesn't get wasted. What are two ways your family avoids throwing food away?

7) Food pantries are one great way to help make sure food goes to people, not to waste. Spend a few minutes researching where the closest food pantry is to your school (hint: it may be at your school!). Who is allowed to get food? When is it open? Pick someone to share this information with.

8) Why are there hawks and falcons at the transfer station?

9) Where does trash go when it leaves your home or school? Use a map app like GoogleMaps to fill in the missing details for each place below.



1

Place: *Your home!*

City:

Distance from home: *0 miles*



2

Place: *Metro Central Transfer Station*

City:

Distance from home:



Place:

City: *Arlington, OR*

Distance from home:



3

10) Fill in the table below for at least three of the people you see working at the transfer station. The first row is an example.

Job title	What do they do?	If this were my job, I would enjoy...	If this were my job, I would dislike...
<i>Tour guide (Nicole)</i>	<i>Guide people on tours of the transfer station and answer questions</i>	<i>Meeting new people</i>	<i>Having to talk over the noise of the machinery</i>

11) Why do you think we have transfer stations? What are two ways they benefit the community? (Hint: think about what would happen if we *didn't* have them).

12) A small percentage of the money from transfer stations is used on projects that support communities.

a) What are three issues or problems you would like to see made better in your neighborhood?

b) If you had \$15,000 to solve these issues, what would you do?

13) How many times did you see Ron the Raccoon?



Extension activities

1) Let's get our hands dirty and conduct a home waste audit! Follow these steps:

- Choose which garbage bin at home you would like to explore
- Put on rubber or latex gloves
- Using clean paper or plastic bags, sort the trash into three piles: recycling, food, and landfill
- If you have a scale, weigh the bags:

Recycling _____ Food _____ Landfill _____

a) List ten items you found in the trash.

b) What was the most common item in your trash?

c) Was there anything in your trash can that didn't have to be there? (Hint: consider some of the words that start with "re-").

d) Write down at least two recommendations to help your household make less trash or use less stuff.

4) Watch the chapter “Zero Waste Cities” from the documentary *The Story of Plastic* at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6rFLNvMqns&feature=youtu.be>.

a) What is one thing you saw or heard that surprised you or was new to you?

b) Froilan talks about “Residual waste” products that can’t be composted or recycled, like plastic packaging. He says, “The only way for us to address a specific product that is problematic is to not create it in the first place...The solution does not come from here. It has to come from the [corporate] headquarters. These are typically in the U.S. and in Europe.” What does he mean by this? Do you agree?

5) Visit <https://ourclimateourfuture.org/map/> and click on the state of Illinois to watch the video “Climate Justice and Air Pollution in Illinois”.

a) The majority of harm to people and the environment happens **upstream** (when our stuff is made), not **downstream** (when it is thrown away or recycled). What are 2-3 examples of harm to people or the environment that Tonyisha mentions in the video when she talks about factories and power plants?

b) What positive solutions does Tonyisha recommend? Can you think of any more to suggest?



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 backpack

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 youthprograms@oregonmetro.gov