



#50 Careers in Waste Management

STANDARDS & CONNECTIONS:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.4, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.6, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.L.2

BACKGROUND:

Approximately 220,000 people were employed in waste management careers in the United States in 2018, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.¹ Roles include hazardous materials removal, laborers, freight and material movers, refuse and recycling collection, septic servicing professionals, and truck drivers. There are also many other jobs not included in the numbers provided by BLS such as administrative roles and supervisory roles and those associated with solid waste management.

SUGGESTED MATERIALS:

Computer with internet access, cardboard/foamboard, coloring supplies, index cards, small objects (for game pieces), tape, glue, scissors

QUESTION:

What are the careers involved in managing the world's waste?



CREATE

Create a board game or card game that explores the careers associated with waste management. Find a creative way to display their responsibilities, including images if possible.



TEST & IMPROVE

Students will test their prototype, seek areas of improvement, and make changes where needed.



SHARE

Students will share what they've created and their lessons learned.



Go on a field trip to a waste management facility. If you aren't near one or can't take the time, check out <https://recyclingsimplified.com/for-educators/virtual-field-trips/> to visit one virtually.

Complete an interview of a professional in the waste management industry.

¹ <https://www.bls.gov/iag/tgs/iag562.htm#workforce>

<https://careers.wm.com/us/en>

<https://www.bls.gov/green/recycling/>

<https://www.bls.gov/iag/tgs/iag562.htm>

<https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/national-overview-facts-and-figures-materials>



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