TEACHER SHEET
How Much Food Packaging Waste Does Your Classroom Produce?

Day 1: Have your students save every piece of food related packaging that they would normally dispose of. Make a place in your classroom where these items can be stored for use in the activity the following day.

Day 2: Find out how much food packaging waste your class produces in 1 day, 1 week, 1 month, and 1 year.
Step 1: Have students sort all packaging waste into two piles, one for recyclables and one for trash.

Step 2: Weigh each pile and record the data for use in the next step. How many pounds of trash and how many pounds of recycling did you generate?

	Recyclables	Trash	Total
Weight	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.

Step 3: Calculate how much waste your class produces in 1 day, 1 week, 1 month, and 1 year.

	Recyclables	Trash	Total
Day	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Week (Day Total x 7)	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Month (Day Total x 30)	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Year (Day Total x 365)	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.

Step 4: Knowing how much waste your class produces, how long would it take for you to produce one ton of trash? (Hint: 1 ton = 2,000 lbs.)

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Step 5: Calculate the volume of your classroom's trash can using the formula *length* x *width* x *height*. Count how many times (approximately) you have to fill/empty the trash can with your class's waste. Multiple this number by the volume you calculated to estimate the total volume of waste that your class produced.

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Questions
1. Were you surprised by how much waste your class generates?
2. Does your school have a recycling program?
3. After completing this activity, can you think of any ways that you could reduce the amount of waste you generate?

Additional Activity
Step 1: Separate all aluminum cans, glass bottles, and plastic bottles from your recycling pile.

Step 2: Count how many of each item you collected.

	Aluminum Cans	Glass Bottles	Plastic Bottles
Total			

Step 3: Use the recycling converter from the EPA to see what your recyclables can do:
https://www3.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/tools/iwarm/widgets/3rwidget.htm#