



ASSEMBLY DISCUSSION GUIDE

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS VIRTUAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAM!

Depending on your grade level, you may want to have your students watch the entire assembly or break it into sections over a few days.

The following review questions can be used for class discussion purposes after each topic section or to review the assembly as a whole.

Be sure to visit **EnvironmentalDefendersLA.com** for more classroom activities, including lesson plans aligned with Common Core, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and California Environmental Principles and Concepts (CA EP&C).





ASSEMBLY DISCUSSION GUIDE

Introduction and Landfill

What does ENVIRONMENT mean? What is our ENVIRONMENT?

Where we live, our community, our planet

What is SOLID WASTE?

Another name for trash or garbage

Where does garbage go after it is collected by garbage trucks?

Garbage is usually buried in landfills, but it may first be sorted to remove any recyclable materials.

What is a LANDFILL?

A landfill is a place where waste is kept (i.e., a big hole in the ground where garbage is buried).

Why do we need to make less garbage?

Landfills produce a harmful gas called methane, which is bad for our environment. We also need to reduce, reuse, recycle and rethink to make less garbage.

Further Reading:

pw.lacounty.gov/epd/cleanla/SolidWaste.aspx

pw.lacounty.gov/epd/cleanla/TrashCollection.aspx

epa.gov/students/games-quizzes-and-videos-about-environment

Landfill Facts for Kids (kiddle.co)



ASSEMBLY DISCUSSION GUIDE

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink

What are the 4 R's that will help us make less garbage?

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink

What does REDUCE mean?

Reduce means to make less or use less

What are some of the things you and your family do to reduce the amount of garbage you make at home?

Examples: Minimize purchasing bags for small things you buy in stores, taking only the ketchup packets you will use, not taking extra napkins, buying snacks in bigger boxes instead of smaller boxes that use more packaging

What does REUSE mean?

Reuse means using something over and over again

What are some of the ways you and your family reuse things at home?

Examples: Drawing on both sides of paper, using reusable containers instead of plastic sandwich bags, giving old toys or clothes to someone else or a charity, using reusable water bottles that can be refilled, taking your own reusable bags to the grocery store, wrapping gifts in a different material like newspaper or reusable bags

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Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink (cont.)

What does RECYCLE mean?

Recycle means to take something old and turn it into something new

What kinds of things do you and your family recycle at home?

Examples: Plastic, aluminum cans, glass, newspapers, paper, and cardboard

What does RETHINK mean?

Rethink means to think again about whether we need things before we buy it. We need to rethink about what we waste and how we can use things differently to make less garbage. We need to use it all or offer unwanted items to family and friends such as crayons and pencils.

Further Reading:

pw.lacounty.gov/epd/cleanla/3Rs.aspx

visual.ly/community/Infographics/environment/recycling-facts-and-stats

pw.lacounty.gov/epd/environmental-defenders/downloads/Lesson-Plan-Four-R's-Grades-K-3.pdf

pw.lacounty.gov/epd/environmental-defenders/downloads/Lesson-Plan-Landfills-and-the-Four-R's-Grades-4-6.pdf

pw.lacounty.gov/epd/rethinkla/

pw.lacounty.gov/epd/sg/

pw.lacounty.gov/epd/ea/misc/tips/env_tips.cfm

calrecycle.ca.gov/Education/Gardens/

calrecycle.ca.gov/Kids/



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Stormwater Pollution

What is STORMWATER POLLUTION?

As water runs over the ground, it can pick up trash, pet waste, oil and other harmful pollutants from streets and sidewalks and flow directly to creeks, rivers, lakes and oceans through the storm drain system

What is a CATCH BASIN?

Holes that are placed along the sides of our streets to prevent flooding when it rains. Catch basins catch and send water to the underground storm drains which lead to creeks, rivers, lakes and oceans.

After water from the streets goes into storm drains, where does it end up?

Creeks, rivers, lakes and oceans

What are some things that can wash into storm drains and out to the ocean?

Examples: Trash, pet waste, cigarette butts, soap from washing our cars, motor oil and other harmful pollutants that affect the water we play in such as creeks, rivers, lakes and oceans

What can we do to reduce stormwater pollution?

Examples: Don't throw trash into the street or dump anything into storm drains, pick up after our pets, sweep sidewalks and driveways instead of using the hose

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Stormwater Pollution (cont.)

What does it mean to CONSERVE WATER?

Using it carefully so we don't waste it

What are some things you and your family do to conserve water at home?

Examples: Turn off the water while you brush your teeth, take shorter showers, be sure your hose or sprinklers are watering the lawn (not the sidewalk)

Further Reading:

pw.lacounty.gov/epd/cleanla/Stormwater.aspx

pw.lacounty.gov/epd/environmental-defenders/downloads/Lesson-Plan-Stormwater-Pollution-Grades-K-3.pdf

pw.lacounty.gov/epd/environmental-defenders/downloads/Lesson-Plan-Stormwater-Pollution-Grades-4-6.pdf

pw.lacounty.gov/epd/sg/conservation.cfm

pw.lacounty.gov/epd/cleanla/WaterConservation.aspx



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Household Hazardous Waste

What is HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE?

Any product labeled toxic, poison, combustible, corrosive, flammable, dangerous or irritant

What are some examples of household hazardous waste?

Examples: cleaning products, air fresheners, hair spray, nail polish, bug spray, household batteries, medicine, paint and motor oil

What is E-WASTE (electronic waste)?

Old, broken or unwanted electronic devices

What are some examples of e-waste?

Examples: old cell phones, computers, video game consoles, TVs, printers

What should we do with household hazardous waste or e-waste?

Use them up or take them to a household hazardous waste collection event/disposal center

Has your family ever taken household hazardous waste or e-waste to a collection event or disposal center? (Yes or no)

What number/website should you call/visit to find out more about garbage, recycling and household hazardous waste?

888-CLEAN LA or CleanLA.com

What are some ways we can reduce the amount of household hazardous waste items we use in our home?

Examples: Use rechargeable batteries and use natural cleaning products such as lemon and vinegar.

Further Reading:

pw.lacounty.gov/epd/cleanla/HHW.aspx

pw.lacounty.gov/epd/hhw/



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Additional Resources

Please be sure to check out EnvironmentalDefendersLA.com, where you'll find online resources that complement the assembly program and can be used to prepare for the show and/or as follow-up activities:

“Meet the Environmental Defenders” Web Experience

This interactive web experience features short videos and quizzes on environmental topics and a personalized completion certificate students can download and send to their teachers.

Environmental Lesson Plans Aligned with Common Core, NGSS and CA EP&C

The Environmental Defenders lesson plans were developed by K-12 science education specialists in Los Angeles County and are aligned with California Common Core Standards, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and California Environmental Principles and Concepts (CA EP&C).

Additional Resources

A list of local, state and national resources for environmental education.