



TAKE CARE OF TEXAS: EDUCATOR MATERIALS

HANDOUT

Introduction to Landfills

Name: _____ Date: _____

In this activity, you will estimate how many years of landfill space we have left in Texas and estimate how much waste, on average, each of us generates.

Determine Years Left in Texas Landfills

1. In 2024, Texans sent 41.32 million tons of waste to landfills. In the same year, there were 2,126 million tons of space left. Space is usually measured as volume, but we’re using tons because we have assumed a density for the waste. Plug the data into the following formula to estimate the number of years before we run out of landfill space in Texas. How many years are left?

$$\text{years left (years)} = \frac{\text{space left (millions of tons)}}{\text{rate of disposal } \left(\frac{\text{millions of tons}}{\text{years}} \right)}$$

2. Use this number to calculate what year we can expect to run out of landfill space.

Determine Your Personal Impact

3. If there were **32 million Texans** in 2024, how many tons of waste did each Texan produce on average?

4. If **1 ton = 2000 lbs.**, how many pounds of trash did the average Texan produce (Hint: Use the answer from the previous question)?



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