



Talking Trash!

Activity Sheet

Students Name _____

Date _____

_____ students recently performed a waste sort or assessment of your school's cafeteria waste. Your classmates gloved up, dumped out all the trash, sorted, estimated its volume and weighed it. Here is what they found:

Materials	Weight (lbs.)	Volume (gal.)
Mixed paper, newspaper, magazines, cardboard		
Plastic (baggies, wrappers, straws etc)		
Glass Jars and bottles		
Paper (napkins, paper towels etc)		
Non-Compostable food waste		
Plastic bottles		
Aluminum and tin (cans, foil)		
Compostable food waste		

Activity 1:

a) Find the total weight of the trash sorted:

b) Find the total volume of trash sorted:



Activity 2: Now, list the materials that could have been recycled or reused. Then, add up their weights and volumes to find the total weight and volume of recyclable materials in your trash.

Recyclable or Reusable	Weight (pounds)	Volume (gallons)
Total Amount that could have been recycled or reused		

Activity 3: Every day each person throws away over 5 pounds of trash. How could you reduce the amount of trash YOU make during lunchtime or in the classroom? Think of the three R's:

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

