

The Garbage Dump Field Trip Worksheet

Your name:

Date:

1. Identify, in writing, the location of the dump and its size (e.g., hectares, acres).
2. How do the people living in the surrounding areas use this dumping area as a waste disposal site? (Included should be a list of the major kinds of waste observed here.)
3. Dumps can be classified as sanitary landfills, rubbish burning dumps, or open dumps. Into which category does this dump fit? Why?
4. Is this a legal dumping area? (Does it conform to the legal statutes governing waste disposal?)
5. Is this dump a safety hazard? Is it accessible to little kids who can hurt themselves in it?
6. Do you note burning going on? Are toxic substances, like plastic, being burned? Is the smoke blowing into areas where people are breathing it?
7. Do you see items in the dump that should have been recycled or reused? What are they?
8. Do you find organic items that should have been composted? What are they?

9. Do you see hazardous waste items, such as motor oil, batteries, and pesticide containers, that are in the dump or even being burned? What are they?

10. Is there any evidence that animals inhabit the dump? If so, what kind? Do they appear to present health and/or safety problems?

11. Briefly describe the uses of the land areas immediately next to the dump. What kind of problems does the dump present to the people living there?

12. Are there any waterways within or near the dump site? Do they receive runoff from the dump? If so, what problems might this cause for downstream communities?

13. Is the dump an eyesore? Is it located where lots of people go, or is it out of the public view? Does it make the town significantly uglier than it has to be?

14. How long can the community rely on this site? What are future plans for waste disposal in this area?

15. Do alternatives to dumping exist in the community? If so, what are they?

16. Can the community reclaim the dump? Should they? If so, how? Are there legal restrictions or regulations governing the reclamation of garbage dumps?

17. What could your group do to attempt to improve the dump situation?