



Waste Invaders Discussion Questions

1. What are **natural resources**?

Natural resources are things in the environment that we use to live and make products.

2. How do we use **natural resources**?

We eat plants. We drink water and also use it to clean, to cook, and to make products. We breathe air. We use wood from trees to build things and to make paper. We use fossil fuels for energy and to make products. We use minerals—metal ore, sand—to make many products.

3. Look around your home. Name three products you can see and the natural resources that have been used to make them.

4. What are some ways that you use water?

5. How have you created wastewater today?

6. What have you thrown in the trash today?

7. If each person creates about 100 big bags of trash a year, about how many bags does your family produce in a year?

8. What happens to trash after a truck takes it away from our homes?

Most of it is buried in landfills. In some places, some of it is burned.

9. What happens to wastewater after it goes down the drain?

In most cities, it goes to wastewater treatment plants to be cleaned and reused for everything except drinking, cooking, and cleaning. In areas without a sewage system, wastewater goes into a septic system under the ground.

10. If throwing things away wastes natural resources, why can't we just stop making products?

We need to use natural resources for food, clothing, shelter, etc. We need to balance our needs with the needs of the environment.

11. How can we reduce the trash we produce?

Answers may include: buy fewer things in the first place; use fewer disposable products; use only the things we really need; reuse products whenever possible; buy products with minimal packaging; drink from reusable water bottles.

12. How can we reduce the amount of water we use?

Answers may include: turn the water off when we brush our teeth; take shallow baths and short showers; wash only full loads in washing machines or dishwashers; wash dishes in a sink instead of under running water; turn off taps completely so they don't drip; make sure taps, toilets, and sprinklers aren't leaking; use a broom instead of a hose to clean outdoors.