

Name _____



Recycling in Our Community

Recycling is a way to help protect the environment of your community. Gather information about the disposal of trash and the recycling program in your community. Use it to complete this project. Use your math skills to help you understand and communicate this information.

A. Research the following questions in your school or town library.

1. Which type of waste takes up the most space in landfills around our country? _____
2. About how long does food and yard waste remain in a landfill before it decomposes? _____
3. About how much of the trash in our landfills is material that does not decompose, such as plastic? _____
4. What happens to trash from your town that is not recycled?

B. Contact your local or regional recycling center to find out the answers to the following questions about recycling in your community.

1. What items are recycled? _____
2. When and where are recycled items collected? _____

3. How must they be sorted before recycling? _____
4. About how many pounds of each item does the community recycle each year? _____

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C. Make a bar graph to display your answer to Question 4. Be sure to label your graph and choose an appropriate scale.

D. Use the information you gathered to answer the following questions.

1. How much of each category of recyclables does your community collect each month? _____
2. About what fraction of the monthly collection is newspaper?

3. About what fraction of the monthly collection is glass and plastic?

4. Suppose your community recycled twice as much as it does today. How could you find out how much money the community would save in disposal costs? _____

E. Use what you know about symmetry and shapes to create a geometric design for a poster that encourages your community to recycle.

- ◆ Name each geometric idea that you used to create your design.
- ◆ List three places in your community where you would like to display your poster and tell why.