



Cold Canyon Field Trip Vocabulary List

Scale house – the first stop for customers and truck drivers at the landfill. This is where the vehicles are weighed to determine if the customer has any recycling to get rid of, how much garbage they are dumping, and what fee they will pay.

Landfill - an area of land designed to handle the disposal of solid waste. The garbage is usually spread out, compacted, and covered with dirt or other material in order to protect the environment in and around the landfill. The landfill is the final destination and the permanent home for anything we put in the garbage bin.

Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) - a facility designed to recover and sort materials that can be recycled, using machines and manual labor

Solid Waste –garbage.

Recyclable - discarded materials, such as paper, aluminum and steel cans, plastic bottles, cardboard, and glass bottles, that can be recycled and remanufactured into new products.

Recycle - to make new products from used materials

Green waste - any type of plant matter, including leaves, grass, and branches, all of which can go in the green curbside bin or in a compost pile/bin. Food scraps can now go into many green waste bins throughout the county.

Hazardous waste - material that is unfit for curbside bins because it may contain toxic chemicals or substances that need special handling and disposal

Bale - a large quantity of recyclables that has been compressed into a cube shape to be transported to the recycler that will create remanufactured products

Active face of the landfill - Where the garbage is being dumped today. The active face moves locations.

Compactor – a large machine that weighs over 80,000 pounds that drives over the garbage at a landfill to squish it down.

Landfill gas – a mix of gasses, mainly methane and carbon dioxide caused by small amounts of decomposition in a landfill. All landfills are required to have a landfill gas recovery system.

Decompose - to break down through chemical change, rot

Methane gas – a greenhouse gas produced by the decomposition of organic waste and action of microorganisms in a landfill. Methane gas is considerably more potent than Carbon Dioxide in terms of its affect on the climate.

Carbon dioxide – another one of the main landfill gases recovered at a landfill.

Falconer – a person who trains hawks and falcons. Falconers use hawks and falcons at landfills to chase away seagulls.

Natural Resources - materials that are found in nature and that can be used by people in many ways. Fresh water, soil, sand, oil, and trees are all examples of natural resources.

Paper - a thin material made from wood, rags, or grasses. Paper is used for writing, wrapping, and covering walls.

Plastic - an artificial substance made from oil and chemicals that can be easily shaped when soft. Plastic is formed into many materials and products.

Glass - a hard, clear material made from the silica found in sand that breaks easily. Glass is used to make windows, bottles, and mirrors.

Aluminum - a type of metal, used to make soda cans and foil, which is extracted from a mineral ore known as bauxite

Food Waste - bits of leftover food that can be turned into compost instead of being thrown away and sent to the landfill. Fruits and vegetable scraps, eggshells, and coffee grounds can be put in a compost bin or worm bin, and any type of food can be placed in the green bin for curbside composting.

Trees - a woody plant that has a long main trunk and many branches. Trees are often times made into paper.

Oil - a substance occurring deep in the Earth that is formed from the decomposition of prehistoric organisms and is used to make gasoline, plastic, and other products.

Sand - tiny, loose grains of ground rock, found on beaches and in deserts, the silica found in sand is used to make glass

Bauxite - Bauxite: the mineral that is mined and used to produce aluminum, primarily found in Australia

Plants - one of a large group of living things that use sunlight to make their own food. Most plants have leaves, stems, roots and either flowers or cones.

Compost - the product of decomposed organic material; a nutrient-rich fertilizer that creates a healthy growing environment for plants