



# Where, Oh Where Does Our Garbage Go?

**Garbage doesn't just disappear when we throw it away. Where does it go? Find out what happens next. Start with question one. You have to find the right answer before you can go on to the next question.**

1. The average American gets rid of more than four pounds of trash each day. Where does most of that garbage go?
  - a. It gets recycled. (GO TO 11)
  - b. It gets burned to make electricity. (GO TO 13)
  - c. It gets dumped and buried. (GO TO 3)
2. What do Americans throw away the most of?
  - a. Plastic bottles. (GO TO 10)
  - b. Paper and cardboard. (GO TO 8)
  - c. Food waste. (GO TO 4)
3. Bingo! Most of our trash is dumped into places we call landfills, where it is covered with layers of soil and more trash. Now go to question 2.
4. Food waste is just a small part of what we throw away. Try question 2 again.
5. Surprise! The hot dog wouldn't be gone. Try question 9 again.
6. What is the best way to cut down on our trash?
  - a. Buy less stuff. (GO TO 14)
  - b. Recycle paper, plastic, glass and metal. (GO TO 14)
  - c. Reuse things as many times as possible. (GO TO 14)
  - d. Buy products made with recycled materials. (GO TO 14)
7. Yes, the hot dog would still be there! A hot dog won't rot unless it gets plenty of air and water. In a landfill, it gets buried right away when more stuff is dumped on top of it. Then air and water can't get to it. Move onto question 6.
8. Right! Paper and cardboard that haven't been recycled take up the most space in the trash - about one-third of all things we throw out. Go to question 9.
9. If you buried a hot dog in a landfill and dug it up in 20 years, what would you find?
  - a. Nothing, it would have rotted away completely. (GO TO 5)
  - b. A mushy mess. (GO TO 12)
  - c. A hot dog. (GO TO 7)
10. Nope. Plastic bottles make up about one-fifth of the trash at landfills, but something else takes up even more space. Try question 2 again.
11. Good answer, but not the right one. We Americans only recycle about one-fifth of the stuff we get rid of. Give question 1 another try.
12. Sorry, no mushy mess. Try question 9 again.
13. Nice try, but only about one-sixth of what we throw away gets burned. Try question 1 again.
14. Ah ha! A trick question! All FOUR answers are right. How did you do? Now you are ready to learn about how you can help make less trash by taking the 3-R challenge!