

TITLE: Excavating Your Recycling Bin as a Fossil Record  
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GRADE LEVEL: Grades 6-12

RESOURCES/MATERIALS: trash can, students, and work sheet

Your recycling bin and two views of it for labeling

OVERVIEW: We are going to simulate how scientists study the past. Scientists use layers of rock with fossils to understand the past. (These layers of rock are called 'STRATA')

OBJECTIVE(s):

- 1 Relative of Rock layers (Oldest deposited on bottom)
- 2 Describe objects in trash as events occurring through time
- 3 Fossil record is in 3-D
- 4 Collection of accurate data is critical

ACTIVITIES AND PROCEDURES:

- 1 Students divided into groups
- 2 Each group will be allowed to excavate \_\_\_cm of paper from the recycling bin. Each group assigned a different layer of paper. Try to learn as much as they can about their layer.
- 3 Record data on the outlines given. There is a top view and side view of the recycling bin. Facts that may be useful: subject, dates, teachers names, position of paper, type of paper, Xerox or ditto.

Example of where to record data

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Mr. Smith's Quiz		
Xerox Math	etc.	1cm
Vocabulary sheet		

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(Students write data collected here as a side view. However, another view from the top of the bin can also be labeled.

TYING IT ALL TOGETHER: Students can see that papers in bin are similar to the fossil record in that deposition of papers in the recycling bin are events through time like the

changing fossil record.

Fossil record is in 3-D.

Accurate data is necessary before destroying sequence.