

Trash Collector

Cluster: Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources

Content Area Integration: Health, Social Studies, ELL

Background Information:

Trash collectors drive, or ride, on trucks on regular routes. They pick up garbage and recyclable materials from homes and businesses. They lift and empty small cans by hand and use hoists to empty heavy cans and dumpsters. Trash collectors take garbage to dumps, or landfills, and recyclables to processing centers.

Objective:

Students will gain an understanding of the work of a trash collector, and how a trash collector contributes to a community.

Hands-on Activity: Trash Collector Wanted

Place the classroom waste basket in front of the room and ask the students where else they see waste baskets and garbage cans. Continue until students have shared numerous sites and types of trash cans. Next ask the students if they know who is responsible for collecting all this trash. Write trash collector on the board.

Tell the students to imagine they are the mayor of a town needing to hire a new trash collector. Ask the students what qualities they will look for when they hire the new trash collector. Record student responses on the board. Guide them to include phrases like being in good physical shape, able to work with a team, and be a good driver. Conclude the discussion by having the students write a help wanted advertisement the trash collector. Conclude by showing the picture of a trash collector from the **I Can Be ...Series**.

Materials:

Paper for each student

Journal:

Students will record whether they would like this job or not. Students should be encouraged to expand on their choice by drawing a picture and/or writing an explanation.

Independent Learning Center Activity:

- **No Trash Collectors:** Ask students to write a story about a town with no trash collectors.
- **Why Garbage Collection:** Have students create a list of reasons why garbage collection is so important.
- **Thank you, Trash Collector:** Have students write a letter to local trash collectors thanking them for what they do for the community.

Workplace Connection:

Invite a trash collector to visit the class.

Evaluation/Comments:

Trash Collector



What I like about being a trash collector is

What I don't like about being a trash collector is

Who do I know in my community who is a trash collector?

Why is it important to have a trash collector in your community?
