



Archaeological Garbologists

STUDENT NAME

INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY 151

Introduction

- ▶ Garbologists are archaeologists who study garbage and its disposal from the past and the present.
- ▶ The major Garbology project was established in 1987 by William Rathje.



Image retrieved from
<https://www.musingsofahistorygal.com/2015/04/garbology-it-is-more-than-just-trash.html>

About

- ▶ In the past years archaeologists have been able to study the way we dispose of things because of garbology.
- ▶ Archaeologists have been working hard uncovering landfills around the United states.
- ▶ This has helped us have a better understanding on how we are disposing of our garbage.
- ▶ It has made us more aware of what we can recycle and what we need to put in the trash.



Image retrieved from
<http://www.fashionforwardtrends.com/news/garbology-popular-subject-indian-schools/>

About



- ▶ Archaeological garbologists have been able to use their knowledge to understand what different cultures have been consuming and what they think of as trash and sometimes they can even figure out what certain groups of people enjoy doing for entertainment purposes (Gal,1970)
- ▶ I find this really interesting because you can tell what different cultures do by what is in their garbage. The fact that there is evidence to show that is outstanding. We learn a lot by what is left behind and what we can get our hands on.

What else?

- ▶ It can also teach us what was eaten in the past.
- ▶ How our waste programs are working and have improved.
- ▶ How different society's make a living off of our garbage and waste.
- ▶ For example: the homeless, the poor, and the ones who do not realize it
- ▶ It can help us avoid making mistakes from the past (Harrison, 2012).

Garbology

- ▶ It teaches us about our modern selves.
- ▶ It helps us study what we were doing wrong in the past.
- ▶ Gives us ideas of our society's disposal patterns
- ▶ Garbage is often fossilized
- ▶ Which means that it is the only thing we have that can teach us about the past.
(Cameron, 2019)



Image retrieved from
<https://www.readingkingdom.com/blog/2013/12/17/educational-websites-lingo-likes-garbology/>

The Garbology Project

- ▶ William Rathje pioneered the study of modern refuse.
- ▶ This was the first garbology excavation, which made people very wary about what they threw away in their trash (Harrison, 2012).
- ▶ After doing some research they found that men do not have waste indicators but women, children and infants do
 - Women leave evidence of things like hygiene products
 - Children leave toys
 - Infants leave behind diapers

National overview

This is showing the breakdown of what we dispose of. As you can see in the picture landfill is over half of what we throw out.

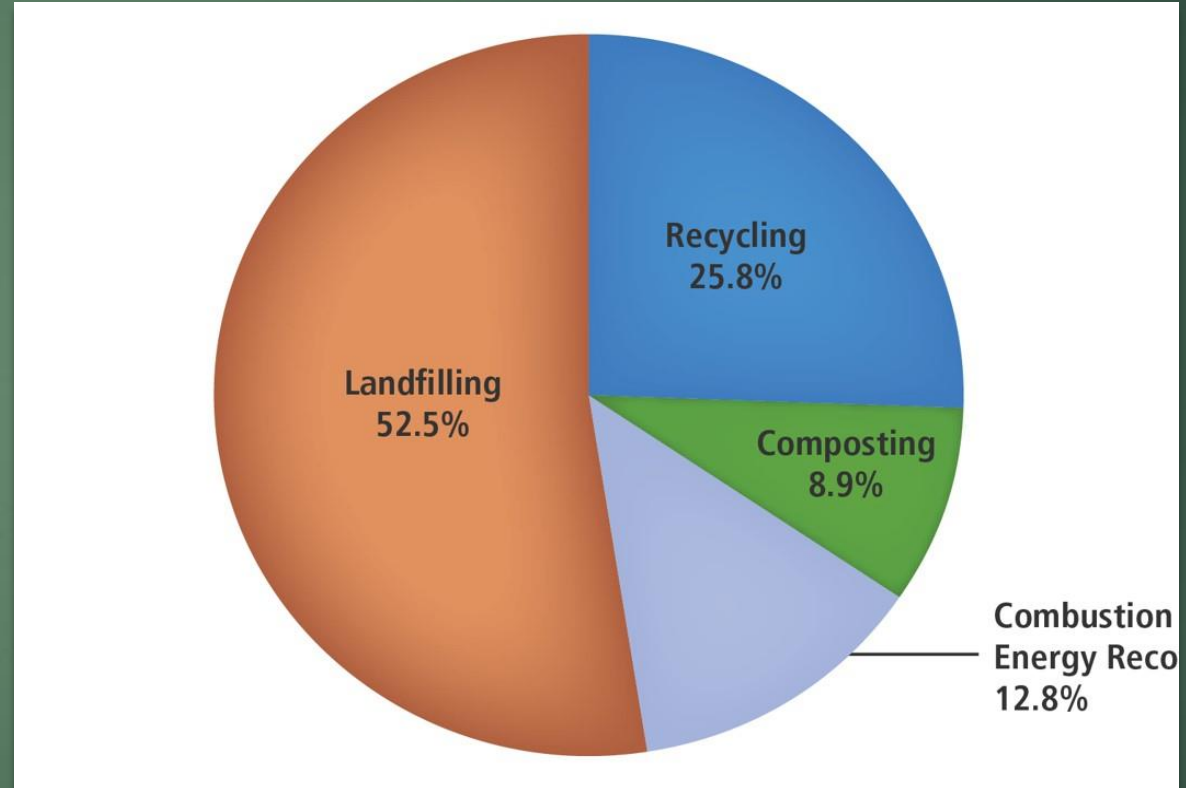


Image retrieved from <https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/national-overview-facts-and-figures-materials>

Findings



- ▶ Through research archaeologists have found that we throw away 7Lbs of trash per day.
- ▶ Plastic is making its way into the food chain because that is the number one thing thrown out.
- ▶ Society does not know how plastic should be thrown out and that is something that we need to work on

Findings

- ▶ Each of us is on track to toss 102 tons of garbage in a lifetime which means that some of us are throwing away our body weight which is absolutely crazy.
- ▶ We throw away more garbage than the things some people are consuming. This shows that there is so much we are wasting. We should all come together and find a solution to this.

Edward Humes



What I think..

- ▶ I believe that this is really important to know because without it we would be wasting a lot of things.
- ▶ We know what we are supposed to recycle because of garbologists.
- ▶ We understand what can happen to the world if we aren't smart and do what is needed.

I Believe

- ▶ I believe that we can use this information to help us in the future. This has to start at home and in our community.
- ▶ We can do surveys to see how many people know the proper things to recycle.
- ▶ In class this made me look at what we recycle at home and I learned that we don't always do it right.
- ▶ So learning about this helped educate me on the right way.

Statistics

- ▶ Society's bad habits have caused the rates to drop by 14% in the recent years.
- ▶ Studies done by garbologists have found that amazingly enough, society today produces much more trash than previous generations
- ▶ 28 billion pounds of food is thrown away each year. This is approximately 1/4 of America's food supply.

The beginning of a change

- In order for us to make a change we have to educate others on what is going on around the world. In order to do that we need to have information to share with others. It is our responsibility to educate others on what is happening. The fact that things are getting worse is not right.



image retrieved from <https://www.portlandmaine.gov/2120/Recycling>

The Past

- ▶ With analyzing researchers have discovered that people who lived through the rationing of WWII accept the modern science that most fats are bad for them, but perceive butter as good. (Lepisto, 2005)
- ▶ Being able to see what they were consuming around that time is definitely mindblowing
- ▶ This connects to psychology as well because it helps us see why we do the things we do.

The past and how it helps

- ▶ Learning about the behaviors of the past makes it even more important to learn about present habits and behaviors to help get a better understanding of why recycling habits are declining.
- ▶ This also helps look at why there is so much paper in landfills.

What we can do

- ▶ In order to help garbologists and our planet we can learn how to properly dispose our waste.
 - ▶ Doing this will be a big step in the right direction
- ▶ We can buy recycled
- ▶ Recycle your water
- ▶ Have a compost bin at home
- ▶ Encourage others



Image retrieved from <https://www.treehugger.com/htgg/how-to-go-green-recycling.html>

Extra steps we can take



Image retrieved from
http://www.publicdomainfiles.com/show_file.php?id=13991169014594

Garbology Facts and how to fix it

- ▶ There is nothing refreshing about bottled water...
 - ▶ You can use stainless steel bottles or tap water
- ▶ Landfills are full of food waste
 - ▶ Learn how to properly freeze or re use containers
- ▶ Being disposable isn't a good thing
 - ▶ Bring a fork from home rather than using plastic silverware
- ▶ Trash is robbing your neighborhood blind
 - ▶ Try to buy in bulks when you can It will help

Conclusion

- ▶ This presentation provided information on what garbologists do, and their findings that have helped us now.
- ▶ Archaeological garbologists have come a long way with their research and have taught us a lot about how to recycle.
- ▶ They have showed us where we come from and what we are leaving behind.

Conclusion

- ▶ There is so much we can do to help ourselves and our planet. There are so many researchers putting in work to better the planet and the way communities dispose of their waste.
- ▶ Garbologists have been able to tell how different generations of society have impacted the world we live in.
- ▶ They have also shown how people taking surveys are not always telling the truth about how they dispose of trash.

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