



WILD CLASSROOM

Conservation in the Classroom

Leftover Lunch—How Saving Food Saves the Planet

September 30, 2021

1 pm EDT

Watch live on [Conservation in the Classroom](#)

View recording on the [Wild Classroom YouTube channel](#)

Each year, up to 40% of all food produced for people globally is lost or wasted. A significant contributor to this statistic is food waste from school cafeterias. Start your students on the right foot this school year by introducing responsible food habits for them to put into practice every day. Kids will learn the connection between how they treat food and the health of our planet, in hopes that they will think twice before sending their leftover lunch to the garbage.

The presenters



<<< Alex Nichols-Vinueza

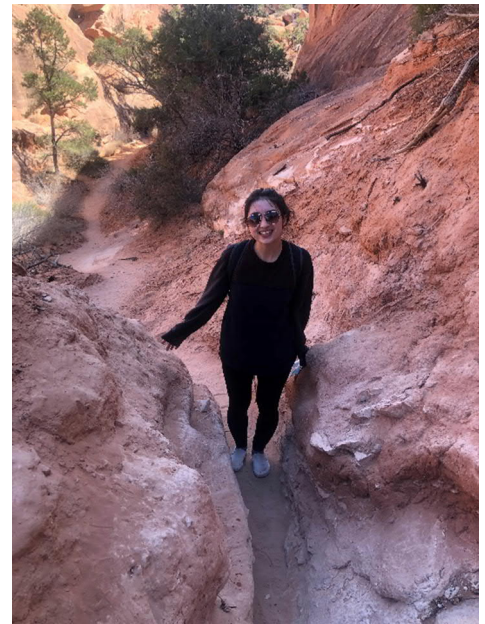
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BELL-RINGERS

Help prepare your learners by introducing the topic with these warm-up questions.

Predict

What do you think is the number one food item that gets thrown away?

Brainstorm

Name three places that might produce a lot of food waste:

- _____
- _____
- _____



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Define

What is a landfill?

Classify

Composting is when you collect organic material like food scraps that break down and can be used as fertilizer. Circle the items you think could go in a compost pile:



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Planning to watch the event live? Write your question(s) for the presenter here:

INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES

Use these web articles and videos to help provide background information to your learners about food waste.

- Video: [Change the Way You Think About Food](#)
- Video: [WWF's Food Waste Warrior School Program](#)
- Video: [The Wildlife and Food Connection: What You Need to Know](#)
- Webpage: [WWF Food Waste initiative](#)
- Web article: [We're losing 40% of the food we produce. Here's how to stop food waste.](#)
- Web article: [What resources does it take to produce a Thanksgiving meal?](#)



ACTIVITIES

Check out these lesson plans to supplement the content from the event.

[Be a Food Waste Warrior toolkit](#)

Perform a food waste audit at your school! This toolkit provides resources, information, and step-by-step guidance on how to teach the planetary impact of what we eat and what we throw away. Teach the unit in full, or pick and choose individual activities.

Available for grades K-12

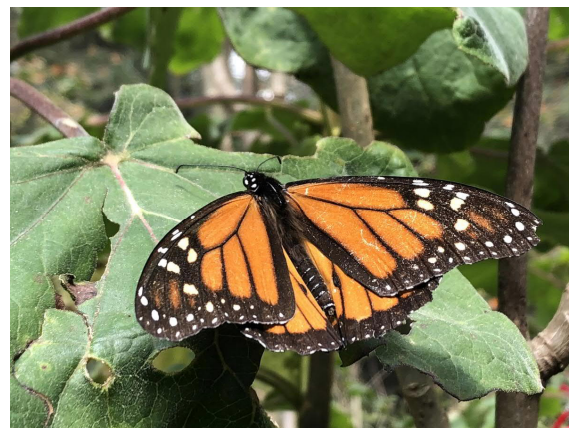


What is in each grade band's toolkit:

- Teaching Guide: How to Get Started
- Slideshow: "What Is Food Waste?"
- Food Audit Instructions
- Discussion Questions
- Student Activities
- Downloadable Food Waste Posters

[Monarch Butterfly toolkit](#)

Our treatment of food also impacts wildlife species. Check out the language arts activity, *Eating Our Planet*, from the monarch butterfly toolkit.



ASSESSMENTS

Conclude your teaching of food waste with these resources and fun assessment tools.

[Wild Classroom “Food & Our Planet” collection on Kahoot!](#)

- What we waste when we waste food
- How food waste affects the environment
- Eat smarter and protect nature

Leftover Lunch worksheet (next page)

Use the worksheet on the following page as an assignment or quiz following the viewing of the *Conservation in the Classroom* event. Answer key:

- 1) water, air, soil, fertilizer, people
- 2) D
- 3) Beef
- 4) C
- 5) B
- 6) Food in landfills doesn't break down properly and emits greenhouse gases, contributing to climate change.
- 7) Habitats are being converted for agriculture, decreasing biodiversity and endangering species.
- 8) B
- 9) Save it, share it, freeze it, donate it, compost it, repurpose it



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Ways to help

- [Small steps to reduce food waste](#)
- [Eating a variety of foods is good for you—and the planet](#)
- [Fight climate change by preventing food waste](#)
- [Reimagine your refrigerator to help freeze the footprint of your food](#)
- [Supercharge your soil with kitchen food scraps](#)
- [Support the Zero Food Waste Act](#)

Leftover Lunch: How Saving Food Saves the Planet

Answer the following questions after learning about the impact of food waste on the environment. Some questions require you to circle the correct answer, while others will ask you to write your answer(s).

1. Name some resources that are needed to grow our food.

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2. How much of our livable land do we use for farming here in the United States?

- a. 20%
- b. 30%
- c. 40%
- d. 50%

3. What food uses the most resources (food, water, energy) to be produced: beef, chicken, or vegetables? _____

4. How much of the food that people buy in the US is wasted?

- a. 10%—20%
- b. 20%—30%
- c. 30%—40%
- d. 40%—50%

5. What's the number one food people throw out?

- a. Bread
- b. Fruits and vegetables
- c. Desserts
- d. Meats

6. Explain why it is a bad thing when food ends up in a landfill.

7. What is the connection between food waste and wildlife?

8. What does it mean to compost?

- a. Throw food in the trash
- b. Collect food scraps that break down and can be used as fertilizer
- c. Burn leftover food
- d. Share food with others



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9. Name responsible options for leftover food to avoid throwing it in the garbage:

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10. Write a few sentences that describe the smart choices you plan to make in your everyday life that will help reduce the impact of food waste on our planet:



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