

Name: _____

Date: _____

Trash Talkin' Activity – Let's Talk Trash Worksheet

I. Prediction

I predict that our class generated _____ of trash this week.

I think _____% of it will be reusable, _____% of it will be recyclable, and _____% of it will be non-recyclable.

Prediction:

Item	MASS OF TRASH			Total
	Re-usable	Recyclable	Non-recyclable	
Food				
Paper				
Plastic				
Metal				
Glass				
Misc.				
Total				

Name: _____

Date: _____

II. Analysis

How much total garbage did your class create this week? _____

Calculate the percents in each category and record them in the table below.

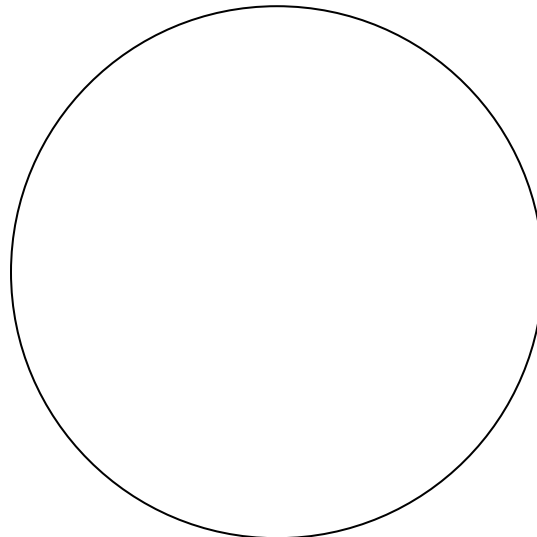
Example

Your class produced 19 pounds of trash this week. Of this, 2.5 pounds was re-useable paper.

$$2.5 \div 19 \times 100 = 13.2\% \text{ of the trash was re-useable paper.}$$

Item	PERCENT OF TOTAL MASS			Total
	Re-usable	Recyclable	Non-recyclable	
Food				
Paper				
Plastic				
Metal				
Glass				
Misc.				
Total				100%

Create a pie chart of these results.



Name: _____

Date: _____

III. Discussion Questions

1. Which of the categories has the most re-useable items (by mass)? _____

Why do you think this is? _____

2. Which of the categories has the most recyclable items (by mass)? _____

Why do you think this is? _____

3. Which of the categories has the most non-recyclable items (by mass)? _____

Why do you think this is? _____

4. Was your prediction for the total amount of trash close to correct? _____

Are you surprised by how much trash your class generated? Explain why or why not.

5. How many classes of students are there in your school? _____

How much trash do the classrooms in your school generate every week? _____

(Assume all the classes generate about as much trash as yours does and show your work below.)

Name: _____

Date: _____

IV. Conclusion

Make some suggestions for what you think happens to the waste from your school each week. (Do not forget that in addition to the classroom waste, there is waste in the school office, the restrooms, the lunch room, special activity rooms, etc.)

Based on the results of this investigation, suggest some ways that your classroom can reduce its solid waste. How might an engineer work to reduce solid waste?
