

Welcome to the Michigan
WISE project! WISE means
Waste Information
Series for Education.
Look inside to
discover how you
can make
a difference.

Psst! Here's what's inside:
A Classroom Full of Trash
Litter Looks a Little Different
The Frog Family Recycles
What is Solid Waste?
Landfills:
The Hole Story
And much,
much more!

Trash Can

Gazette

The Trash Story

People have
always thrown
things away.
Prehistoric people didn't
worry about trash. There
was plenty of space and
nature took care of the
things they threw away.

As the years went by,
there were more and more
people on the
Earth. They
spread across
the open
land, and
began to move
into cities. After
a while, they had to cart
their **trash** out of the cities,
but there was still plenty of
space nearby.

At the
same time,
people were
making more
and more things that
nature couldn't take care of.
And the cities grew larger
and larger.

Before long, we had to
start looking for new ways
to get rid of all the things
we were throwing away.

We tried
dumping
our trash in
open dumps,
but this caused
pollution and health
problems.

We tried to burn our
trash in the open, but this
caused air pollution.

We tried
dumping our
trash into rivers,
lakes and the
ocean. This
caused
problems for
the living
things in the
water, and
trash began washing up on
beaches and shores.

Nature could no longer
take care of the trash
problem. So people had to
find a safer way to handle
our growing trash load.

Today, the
average person
throws away over
1,000 pounds of
trash in one year.

Most of this
trash is buried at
landfills.
Landfills are
safer than dumps.

There are laws to
help make sure
that landfills
control pollution
and protect
health.

But landfills
take up a lot of
space. And we
are running out of
empty land near
cities. It costs more and
more to get rid of our trash.

What can we do to
help? We can reduce the
amount of trash we throw
away by more than half if
we remember the 3 R's:

Reduce the
things we throw
away. **Reuse** the
things we can.

Recycle to save
resources and
to reduce the
amount of trash
we have to bury.

Read on, and learn
how you can make a
difference in the struggle to
make less trash.

