

THE INCREDIBLE EDIBLE LANDFILL ACTIVITY

Background Information:

In general, landfills are composed of a series of layers designed to isolate the buried garbage from the surrounding environment. The following is a simple, general description of the construction of a landfill.

A thick clay liner forms the bottom and sides of landfills.

A plastic liner covers the clay.

A network of pipes called “leachate collection tubes”, which are connected to pumps on the surface of the landfill, are placed on top of the plastic liner with a mixture of sand and gravel.

Garbage is disposed of in “cells” or small areas in a landfill.

When a cell is full, or at the end of each day, it is covered with a layer of compacted dirt or synthetic materials to prevent blowing, reduce odors and keep wildlife out.

A clay cap and topsoil are placed on top of a landfill that is filled to capacity.

Closed landfills have been turned into parks, golf courses, ski hills or left as natural areas providing homes for wildlife.

Materials Needed for the Edible Landfill

Use one of the following for the landfill:

- Pie Crust (Chocolate or Graham Cracker)
- Clear Plastic Cup (crushed graham crackers)

Spoons

Oreo Cookies

Vanilla Pudding

Licorice Whips

Napkins

Coconut

Green Food Coloring

Fruit Roll Ups

A mixture of items for the “garbage”:

Peanuts

Raisins

Small Candies

Dried Fruit

Substitutions may be made for any item suggested, for example, use yogurt instead of pudding, etc.

Directions

1. Prepare pudding according to directions on package. Refrigerate for required time.
2. If using a clear cup to show the layers, crush graham crackers, moisten with water and press into bottom and sides of cup.
3. Put a piece of fruit roll up on the crust and cover with crushed peanuts.
4. Put pieces of licorice horizontally on the above.
5. Spread a thin layer of vanilla pudding and “garbage” pieces.
6. Sprinkle with crushed Oreo cookies.
7. Repeat #5 and #6 until cup is full, ending with a layer of fruit roll up and cookies.
8. Mix green food coloring with coconut, stir and put on top.
9. Put two pieces of licorice vertically into completed layer of pudding (methane gas system).
10. Eat and enjoy!

Information provided by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County. Visit www.swancc.org for educational references, workshop opportunities and special material collection events or call (847) 724-9205.

