

Landfill Decomposition Worksheet

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Sanitary	cornstarch peanut							
	paper							
	cotton string							
	polystyrene peanut							
	foodstuff							
	synthetic string							
	metal							
	wood							
Organic Soil	cornstarch peanut							
	paper							
	cotton string							
	polystyrene peanut							
	foodstuff							
	synthetic string							
	metal							
	wood							

Landfill Decomposition Worksheet, Continued

Week		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Sandy Soil	cornstarch peanut								
	paper								
	cotton string								
	polystyrene peanut								
	foodstuff								
	synthetic string								
	metal								
	wood								

Post-Lab Questions

1. Describe what happened to the materials in the organic soil. What materials were biodegradable in the organic soil?
2. Describe what happened to the materials in the sand. Were any materials biodegradable in the sand?
3. Did any of the materials degrade in the sanitary landfill? Why or why not?
4. What material degraded the most rapidly?
5. Given your results, what soil type would you use to cover waste in a landfill?
6. What are the advantages and disadvantages of both sanitary and open-air landfills?
7. What steps can you take to reduce the amount of trash being placed into landfills?