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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								

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Landfill Decomposition Worksheet, Continued

	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	cornstarch peanut								
	paper								
	cotton string								
Sandy Soil	polystyrene peanut								
Sand	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?