



## Our Planet Our Future

A program of  
Earth Day Canada®

### Objectives:

Help students understand what happens to garbage that goes into a landfill.

### What you need:

- Small individual-sized empty water bottles (one per student or per group)
- Soil
- Paper, foil or any other non-food items
- Scrap food (popcorn, bread, fruit peel, etc.)
- Water
- Plastic wrap
- Bird seeds
- Rubber band

### What you do

1. Give a water bottle to each student or group. Have them cut the top quarter off the bottle. (You can also have them pre-cut before giving them to students). The bottle tops can be used as scoop for the soil.
2. There are seven layers to the "landfill." The students place a little soil to the bottom of the bottle, add water then non-food items (paper and foil, etc.), layer soil, add water then food items (popcorn, fruit peel, bread), layer more soil, add water then some birdseed and top with a thin layer of soil.
3. Students place a piece of plastic wrap and secure it around the top of the bottle with a rubber band. Lead the students in a discussion what might happen to the items over a period of time.
4. Allow the "landfills" to sit for about three weeks or more. After the wait, students take off the plastic wrap and pour out their contents to see what happened. They log what happened to each item and compare it to their predictions. Each year they are surprised at the results (and so are some of the teachers!)

