

Can You Keep the Landfill Smaller?

Level H/I



by **Teresa Clevidence**

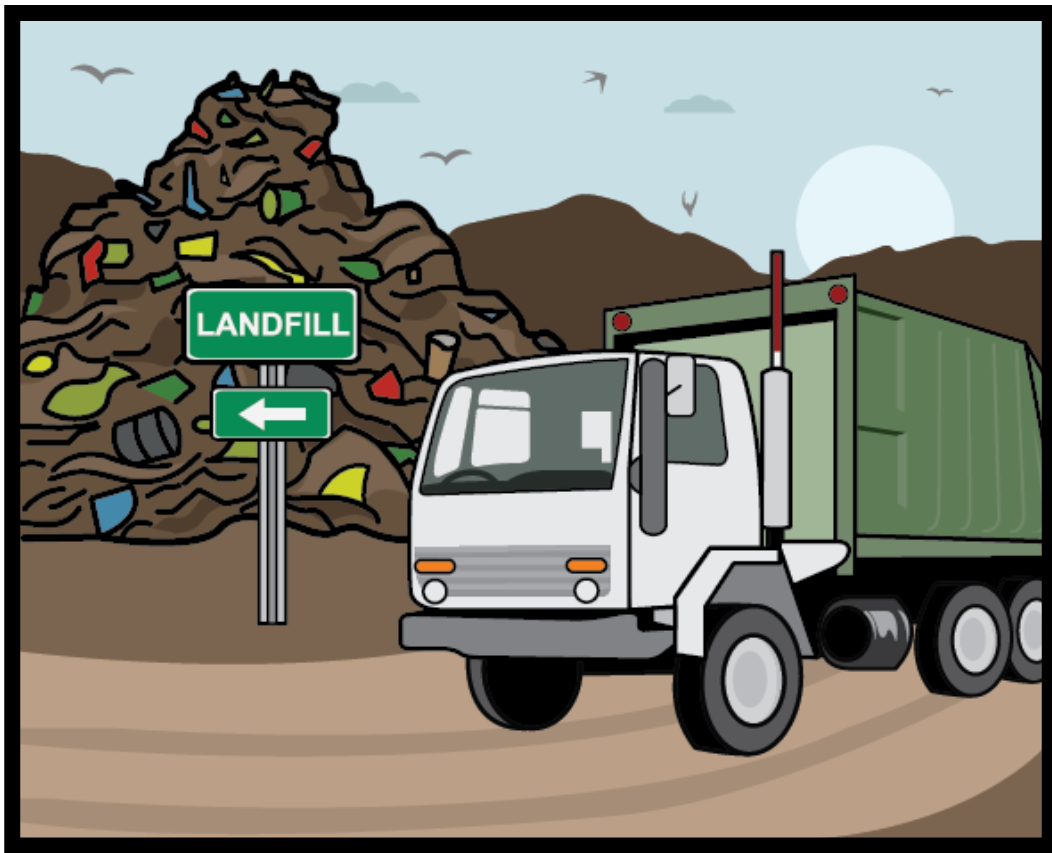


Illustrated by **Travis Schaeffer**





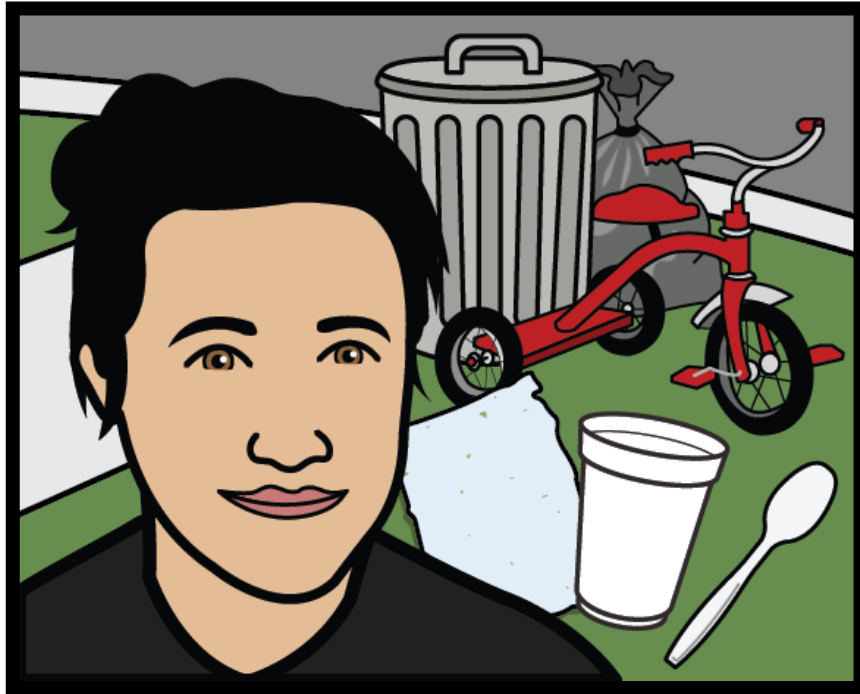
Americans throw away a lot of trash. They throw away enough garbage to fill 63,000 garbage trucks every day. You will throw away about 90,000 pounds of trash during your life.



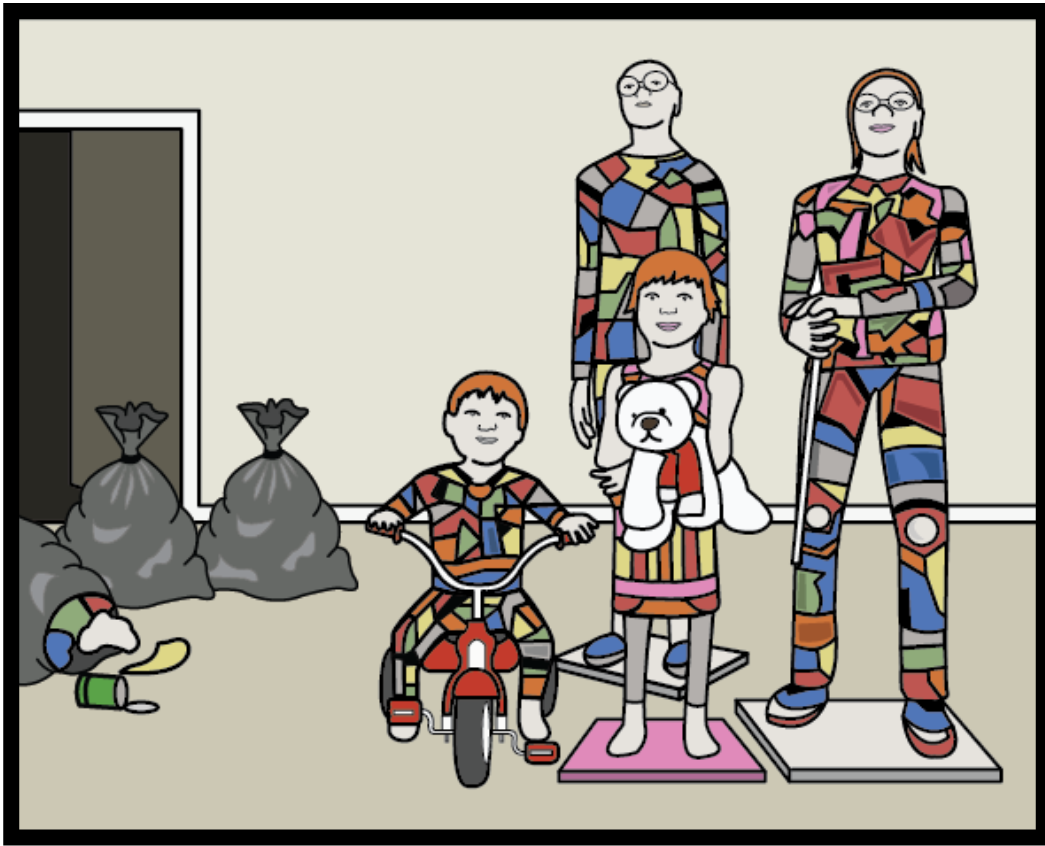
That's a lot of trash. Where are we going to put all of that trash? Most of the time, a garbage truck will take the trash to a landfill. A landfill is a place where trash is put on top of trash and then it is all covered with dirt.



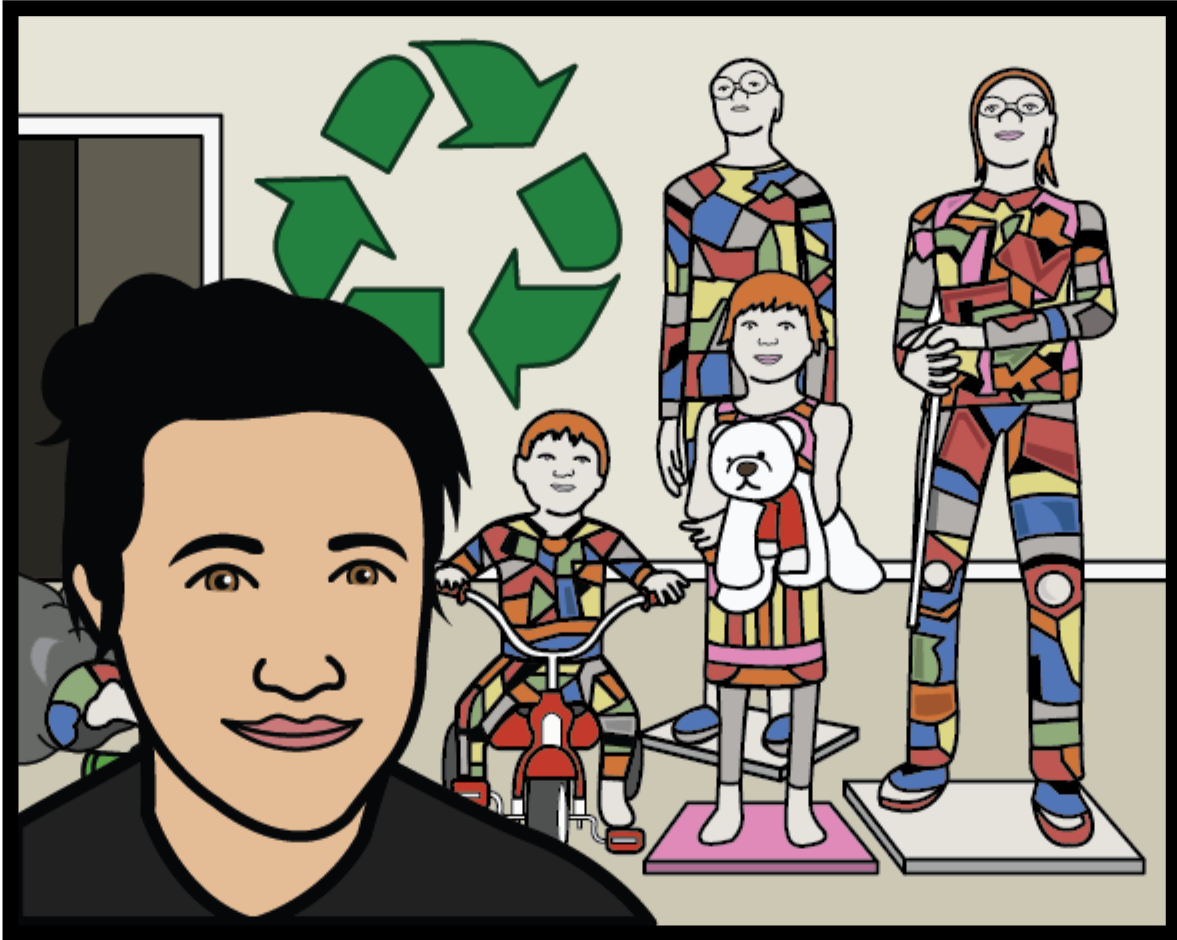
That is going to be one big pile of trash! What can you do to keep the landfill smaller? Could you use some of that trash to make art?



Michelle Reader is an artist and she asked the same question. She asked a family to save their trash for three weeks. Then she looked through it. She found many things in the trash. She found papers, milk caps, plastic spoons, old toys and much more.



She took those things and began to make a sculpture. A sculpture is a piece of artwork that you can see from all sides. She made a sculpture of each family member out of the things that the person threw away.



Michelle used trash and turned it into art. Now, the trash she used didn't have to go into a landfill. She made something beautiful out of it. Michelle recycled.



Michelle continued recycling trash to make sculptures. Sometimes, she uses old toy parts to make her sculptures move. She has made sculptures of people, animals, boats, and much more. Just think of all of the trash that she has used. She is keeping the landfill smaller.

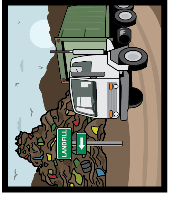


There are many other ways to reduce the amount of trash that goes into the landfill. You can make art like Michelle. You can recycle. You can reuse a jar to hold something else. You can give the shoes that are too small for you to someone else to wear. How will you keep the landfill smaller?



The End

yes



Can You Keep the Landfill Smaller?

no



throw away 	make 	smaller 	American 	trash 	garbage truck
use 	recycle 		landfill 	art 	Michelle Reader
reduce 	reuse 		artist 	sculpture 	people
			animal 	jar 	shoes