

# "FOOD WASTE AND NATURAL RESOURCES" PRESENTATION NOTES



## INTRODUCTION

Use the notes provided as recommended discussion topics as you walk your students through the "Food Waste and Natural Resources" presentation slides.

## PRESENTATION

### Slide 1)

Tell students that they will learn about the food production system, which is the steps that food takes in the process of getting from farms, the producers, to you, the consumers. Today they will learn about all the different resources that are used to produce the food we eat every day.

### Slide 2)

Our food comes to us from all around the world, so to see what happens when we waste food, let's take a look at where some of our food comes from and some of the resources that go into growing our food.

### Slide 3)

Growing food for everyone takes up a lot of space- so when we waste food, we have to take space from wildlife to be able to grow more food. Let's take a look at the Amazon Rainforest in South America. Can anyone tell me what these animals are? (Macaw, Jaguar, Sloth)

What happens to these animals when we take away their natural habitat? These animals have no place to live and could even go extinct.



**Slide 4)**

Growing food also requires lots of water. Just the food that we grow for Franklin county uses 41 billion gallons of water every year.

That is enough wasted water in Franklin County every day to fill up (and overflow) the Great Pyramid of Giza.

**Slide 5)**

The food that we eat (and do not eat) also uses nutrients from the soil to grow into delicious food. When food goes to the landfill, we lose the opportunity to put those nutrients back into the soil so that the next year's crops can be as delicious and nutritious as this year's crop.

It helps to compost food scraps, which breaks food down into nutrients to go back into the next crop, but the best use of nutrients and all the resources that went into your food is to eat it and enjoy it!

It takes half the area of Franklin County to grow the food that Franklin County does not eat.

**Slide 6)**

How much food do you think Central Ohio Wastes every day? Use the picture to explain that Franklin County is our community, just on small piece of the state of Ohio.

Ask for guesses. You can also guess how many school buses they think is equivalent to the weight of wasted food in Central Ohio

(Option: calculate the number of buses with your class)

One Standard bus weighs 23,500 pounds

1 million pounds / 23,500 pounds per bus = 42 buses!

**Slide 7)**

In Franklin County alone we send about 1 million pounds of food to the landfill every single day- that's the same weight as 42 school buses per day!

**Slide 8)**

By saving food, we not only preserve natural resources, we also can provide meals for members of our community who do not have nutritious food to eat every day- that includes students like you.

**Slide 9)**

What can you do? (Ask for student ideas)



- take what you can eat
- eat what you take
- save your leftovers for a snack or meal later
- pack a zero-waste lunch
- eat (and enjoy!) imperfect produce- varied produce shapes are natural- there's no reason that a small blemish or special shape should stop you from enjoying your food!
- compost when possible
- talk to friends/family about food waste
- donate usable food from your pantry that you will not use

#### **Slide 10)**

What can we do together? (ask for student suggestions)

- start a compost program
- create a share table
- class food waste log
- tour the landfill at SWACO to learn more

#### **Slide 11)**

Close out the presentation with a few questions for your students about what your class wants to do together to reduce food waste and ask students to share what they learned with the class.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Check out other SWACO resources for ideas of what you can do as a class. Resources include guides to packing zero waste lunches, starting a share table, in-class and take-home activities, and fieldtrips to SWACO for a landfill tour.



## Food Waste and Natural Resources

SAVE  MORE  
THAN FOOD  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**SWACO**

# What Else Do We Waste When We Waste Food?

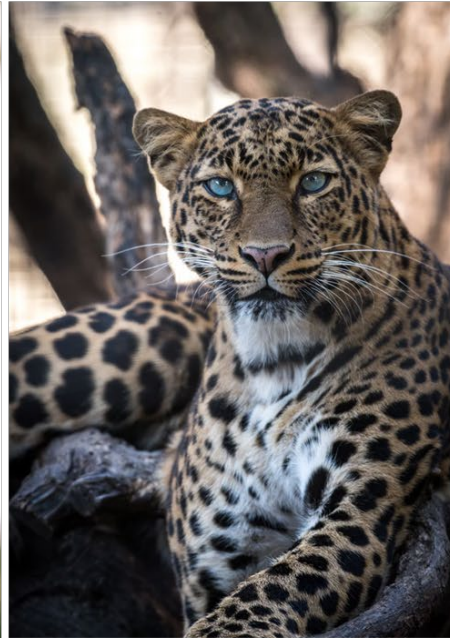


SAVE  MORE  
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FROM WASTE TO RESOURCES



# Amazon Rainforest- Wildlife Habitat



# Nile River, Egypt- Water



# Ohio- Soil



# How Much Food Do You Think Central Ohio Wastes Every Day?



# 1 Million Pounds of Food Every Single Day!



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**SWACO**  
FROM WASTE TO RESOURCES



# What Does That Mean in Our Community?



# What Can You Do?



BRUISED APPLE



+

UGLY ORANGE



+

BROWNING BANANA



= SMOOTHIE FROM HEAVEN



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# What Can We Do Together?



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FROM WASTE TO RESOURCES





Questions?