

# Lake Mead

## Environmental Education

National Recreation Area  
National Park Service



## CLASSROOM PROGRAM

### Grade 5

### "Recycology 101"

<b>Theme</b>	We can reduce the amount of trash we throw away and contribute less to our landfills if we reduce, reuse, and recycle.
<b>Objectives</b>	Students will describe what happens to trash after it is thrown away. Students will describe two impacts of trash at Lake Mead NRA. Students will describe two ways they can reduce, reuse, and recycle the trash they generate.
<b>Vocabulary</b>	<u>biodegradable</u> - having the ability to be broken down, by living organisms, into simpler components that will not harm the environment <u>decomposition</u> - the process by which materials break down or degrade into basic parts; rot or decay <u>landfill</u> - a large pit or hole lined with plastic or clay where garbage is buried under shallow layers of dirt <u>recycle</u> - to break down metal, glass, plastic or other recyclable materials and make them into new products <u>reduce</u> - to cut down on the amount of waste through wise purchasing and packaging decisions <u>reuse</u> - to find another use for an item rather than throwing it away
<b>Background Information</b>	In Clark County, 85% of the garbage produced is sent to landfills for disposal. There are a number of operational landfills in the county. Trash doesn't always end up in landfills though. From filling up landfills to litter at the lake, disposal of all this waste can pose a challenge. One of the most promising solutions involves cutting back on the amount of trash that we generate. Currently only about 15% of our solid waste is recycled or re-used. Through increasing this percentage, we can reduce the amount of waste going to landfills, save money, and conserve resources and raw materials.
<b>Before the Ranger Visits your Classroom</b>	As a class, make a list of the five most common types of trash found around your school. Write the list on the board for the ranger to use during the presentation.
<b>After the Ranger Visits your Classroom</b>	Have the students design an 8 1/2 x 11 poster that advertises the importance of recycling, reducing, and reusing. Lake Mead National Recreation Area can use these posters in various exhibits if sent to our office.

*Teachers! - check out our new web site with an extensive classroom section:  
<http://www.nps.gov/lame/classindex.htm>*