

International Trade in Waste



Introduction

The global waste trade as the international trade of waste between countries for further treatment, disposal, or recycling. The fall out of this kind of trade is that toxic or hazardous wastes are often exported from developed countries to developing countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Objectives:

Students will be able to

- understand the concept of “trade in waste”.
- investigate and analyse trade in waste.
- report trade in waste.

YRE steps: Investigate, Research Solution, Report, Disseminate

Curriculum Linkage: Science/ Environmental Studies/Social Science

Time required/ Duration:

- **Classroom session 1:** 45 minutes for background introduction and classroom activity through a case study approach.
- **Home assignment 1:** 12 hours over a month for investigation, research solution on trade in waste and reporting
- **Classroom session 2:** 45 minutes to summarise student investigations and convert the same into articles/videos.

Resources Required:

- Resource 1 (“China says it won't take any more foreign waste” - A case study)
- Writing material
- Internet



15-18
Years



Activity

Classroom session 1

- Provide a background introduction for the class and trade in waste.
- Divide students into groups of 3-4 members.
- Ask each group to discuss the article provided in Resource 3 (China says it won't take any more foreign waste).
- Gather the different perspectives on likely impact of the decision.

Home Assignment 1

- Get student groups to investigate “trade in waste” - taking the example of their own country, students should be encouraged to gather data and statistics and find out if their country is trading in waste
 - Either exporting waste
 - Importing waste
 - What are the waste types being traded?
 - Which are the countries from where this waste is originating?
 - What are the impacts of these wastes in the countries which are importing them?

Classroom session 2

- Ask the students to present/share the information gathered by them.
- Facilitate a discussion to help students gather different perspectives and gather their thoughts.
- Ask the students to pen down their investigations and findings in the form of an article.
- Encourage students to present the report article on the YRE bulletin board or share on other platforms including social media.

Evaluation:

Review the reportage and ascertain if students have been able to analyse

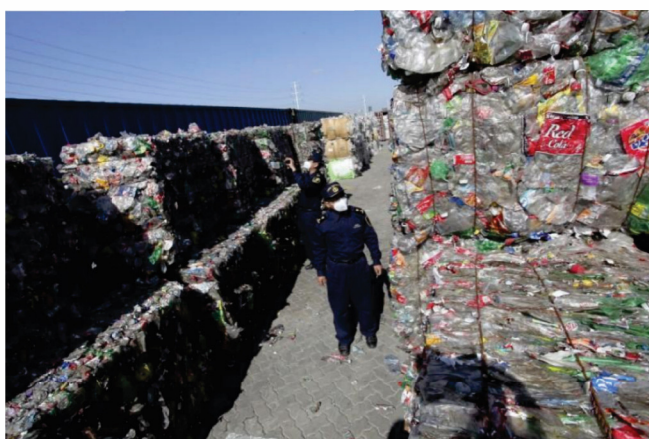
- Types of waste which get traded.
- And the impacts of these wastes on the environment as well as the people dealing with them.

Resource 3

China says it won't take any more foreign garbage - A Case Study

Tom Miles, Reuter Journalist

GENEVA (Reuters) - China notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) on Tuesday that it would stop accepting shipments of rubbish such as waste plastic and paper as part of a campaign against “foreign garbage”.



FILE PHOTO - Customs officers check on imported solid waste at an examination centre in Qingdao, Shandong province, October 15, 2013. REUTERS/China Daily

The import ban, which will enter into force by the end of 2017, will also cover slag from steelmaking, and many kinds of waste wool, ash, cotton and yarn.

“We found that large amounts of dirty wastes or even hazardous wastes are mixed in the solid waste that can be used as raw materials. This polluted China's environment seriously,” China's WTO filing said.

“To protect China's environmental interests and people's health, we urgently adjust the imported solid wastes list, and forbid the import of solid wastes that are highly polluted.”

China is a major importer of waste. Last year it imported 7.3 million tonnes of waste plastics, valued at \$3.7 billion, accounting for 56 percent of world imports. Apart from Hong Kong, the biggest sources of that plastic waste were Japan and the United States, which accounted for roughly 10 percent of the volume each, according to data from the International Trade Centre, a United Nations-WTO joint venture.

The same two countries are also the main sources of scrap paper going to China each year, accounting for half of the almost \$1 billion business between them.

China's speedy industrial development has seen it struggling to regulate waste disposal, leading to toxic waterways and cities blanketed in smog.

China plans to conduct a nationwide survey of pollution sources, and has urged local authorities to speed things up by launching local investigations by the end of July, the Ministry of Environmental Protection said on Monday.

Reporting by Tom Miles; Editing by Gareth Jones

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-environment/china-says-it-wont-take-any-more-foreign-garbage-idUSKBN1A31JI>