



## Handout: Zero Waste Starts at Home!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

### Watch

As you watch the [video](#), see if you can answer the following questions.

What does Dave the Recycling Fairy hand the student to help the student's family drink less bottled water? \_\_\_\_\_

How can we cut down on garbage from shipments and packaging? \_\_\_\_\_

### Reflect

While pulling a plastic fork and paper napkin out of the garbage can, Dave the Recycling Fairy says, "Sometimes, convenience is just another way to waste." Based on this scene, what do you think Dave means by the term "convenience?"

Response:

Even though the student is careful to recycle as much as possible, Dave the Recycling Fairy still has an important message to share. In your own words, in one or two complete sentences, what was the main message or idea of this video?

Response:

### Connect

Look at the items below. In the left column, you'll see common items that go into the landfill. Some of these items are single-use, meaning they are designed to be used only one time and then thrown away! Others can be used more than once, but still end up in the landfill because they are made of materials that can't easily be recycled. In the right column, you'll find low waste or zero waste alternatives that can replace the items on the right. Your job is to match up the high and low waste pairs!

## Landfill Only



## Better Choice



1 <https://search.creativecommons.org/photos/c11e7ea1-385e-404b-8b65-f820d2564305>

2 [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fork\\_knife\\_and\\_spoon\\_made\\_of\\_bamboo\\_on\\_a\\_plate.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fork_knife_and_spoon_made_of_bamboo_on_a_plate.jpg)







3 [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Marseille\\_soap\\_bars\\_\(lemon\\_verbena\\_and\\_lavender\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Marseille_soap_bars_(lemon_verbena_and_lavender).jpg)

Production and distribution of this document is exclusively limited to SEI.

[www.seiinc.org](http://www.seiinc.org) © 2021

## Zero Waste Around The World

Actually, the idea of Zero Waste is a very ancient idea that can be found all over the world! Here are some examples of Zero Waste from around the globe. Take a minute to look at the pictures below, and circle one you think is cool. Then, find its description below.

		
		
<p>In the United States (North America), people make <i>scrap quilts</i> by cutting up old clothing or leftover fabric, turning shirts and pants into cozy, beautiful blankets!</p>	<p>In Japan (Asia), <i>furoshiki</i> are traditional cloths used for wrapping gifts! Special bows and knots are used to tie everything together instead of tape or string!</p>	<p>In India (Asia), <i>tiffins</i> are stacking metal containers used for carrying food...sort of like a lunchbox! They can even be carried on a bicycle.</p>
<p>In Nicaragua (Central America), <i>nacatamales</i> are steamed and then stored in banana leaves, providing a delicious food with practically no garbage!</p>	<p>In Belgium (Europe), <i>Belgian darning</i> is a way to repair clothes holes or rips. People choose camouflage thread so that the repair is practically camouflage.</p>	<p>In Ghana (Africa), <i>bolga</i> baskets help people carry fruits and vegetables. These baskets are woven from grass and are very strong.</p>

4 <https://search.creativecommons.org/photos/cb0df528-dd45-49d4-9dc7-a30cdf3e4e59>

5 [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Traditional\\_Japanese\\_wrapping\\_cloth,huroshiki,katori-city,japan.JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Traditional_Japanese_wrapping_cloth,huroshiki,katori-city,japan.JPG)

6 [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Nacatamales\\_in\\_steamer.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Nacatamales_in_steamer.jpg)

7 <https://www.pxfuel.com/en/free-photo-xapsr>

8 <https://pixabay.com/photos/tiffin-india-pan-pans-lunch-1796180/>

9 <https://images.metmuseum.org/CRDImages/ad/original/DP142720.jpg>

## Zero Waste Design Challenge

Look around! What do you see? Do you see something that is made to be used just a few times and then thrown away or recycled? Do you see something that is made of plastic when it could be made of a reusable material like glass or metal or a natural material?

Once you find an object, draw it below. Then, think about how you could design this item to be less wasteful. Would you add anything? Take something away? Use different materials? Make sure to label the changes you've made to the original.

