

**Waste Characterization/ Composting**

**Objectives:**

**I will understand that studies have been conducted to determine what makes municipal solid waste.**

**I will be able to identify which of the categories of MSW generated can be recycled.**

**I will be able to identify what types of materials can be composted and what cannot.**

**I will recognize that for efficient composting, there must be a balance of materials.**

**Standards:**

**E.12.C.4 Students know processes of obtaining, using, and recycling of renewable and nonrenewable sources. E/S**

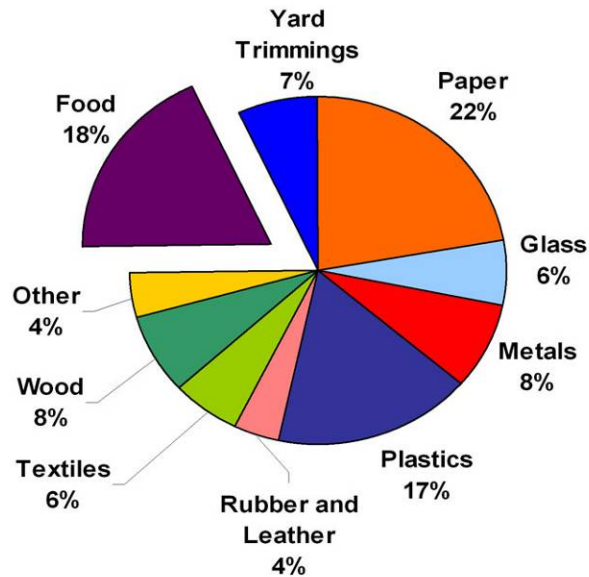
**N.12.A.1 Students know tables, charts, illustrations and graphs can be used in making arguments and claims in oral and written presentations. E/S**

**N.12.A.2 Students know scientists maintain a permanent record of procedures, data, analyses, decisions, and understanding of scientific investigations. I/S**

**N.12.B.2 Students know consumption patterns, conservation efforts, and cultural or social practices in countries have varying environmental impacts. E/S**

**N.12.B.4 Students know scientific knowledge builds on previous information. E/S**

## Municipal Solid Waste Sent to Landfill, 2007



Taken from: <http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/features/foodtoenergy/food-waste.html>

### Vocabulary:

1. Municipal Solid Waste:
2. Waste Characterization Study:
3. Environmental Protection Agency:
4. Organic Compounds:
5. Decompose:
6. Biodegrade:
7. Compost:

### Assignment:

1. Draw a pie chart representing the information in the waste characterization table.

**2. Which of the categories above can be composted?**

**3. List some items that can be composted.**

**4. List some items that cannot be composted.**

**5. Write the formula for next session's compost column.**