

Food Waste

Introduction: Food waste is food that is thrown away because it is either undesirable or inedible. At this station, you will learn more about some of the reasons why food is thrown away. At your station, you have a variety of food items. ALL of these items are very often thrown away and contribute to the **20 lbs of food waste**¹ that the average American produces every day!

1. Next to each food item below, write: 1) A hypothesis for why you think it is often thrown away, and 2) one reason why you think it should or should not be thrown away:

a. Misshapen produce (fruits and vegetables):

b. Leftover take-out food:

c. Food with an 'expired' sell-by date:

¹ World Resources Institute, 2013 (http://www.wri.org/sites/default/files/reducing_food_loss_and_waste.pdf)
Resource adapted from California Academy of Sciences' "*The Environmental Impact of Feeding the World* Journal"
(<https://www.calacademy.org/educators/lesson-plans/exploring-the-impacts-of-feeding-the-world>)

2. Describe the different food items at your station. Do any of them look inedible or spoiled? Do they smell bad? How do you think a packaged food item's 'sell by' date is determined, and what exactly does it mean?

3. Can you think of a few ways you could keep these food items from going to waste? List them below:

Example: We could donate leftover food to a food bank.