

What Happens To The Trash?

SPI 0707.Inq.3

SPI 0707.7.7

In our daily lives, we generate many types of trash. Municipal solid waste is the trash we produce in homes, schools, and other places in the community. Some of this trash includes such things as food scraps, used papers, and empty packages. Trash is also produced in the form of solid waste in places such as Industrial plants, construction sites, and certain agricultural farms.

So, where does all that trash go? In the United States we have three methods of handling solid waste. These are to bury it, to burn it, or to recycle it. Our trash is disposed of in landfills, by incineration, or by reusing it.

Materials:

Paper Pencil
Compass Ruler (Straight edge)
Protractor Calculator
Colored pencils

Use the data in the table below to construct a circle graph showing the appropriate size for each Method of Disposal (MOD) of solid waste in the United States.

Method of Disposal	Percentage of Waste
Landfills	56%
Recycle	27%
Incineration	17%

A circle graph is also known as a pie graph because it looks like a pie. The pie represents the topic. The slices represent the categories. The size of the slice shows the percentage of the whole pie each category makes up.

1. Use the compass to draw a circle. Mark the center with a dot.
2. Draw a line from the center to the top of the circle.
3. To determine the "slice" sizes set up a formula as follows:

$$\frac{\% \text{ of MOD}}{\text{Total \% of the pie}} = \frac{X}{\text{Total number of degrees in a circle}}$$

4. Cross-multiply and solve for "X".
5. Using the protractor, measure the angle of the first "slice". Use the line you have already drawn as the 0° line.
6. Draw a line from the center of the circle to the edge for the angle you just measured. This is your 1st MOD.
7. Continue around the circle using the edge of the previous slice as the 0° line. Make sure the "slices" do not overlap. When you are done the circle should be completely filled up.
8. Use a different color to shade in each "slice".
9. Label each "slice" with the name of the category and percentage of the whole it represents.
10. Add an appropriate title to your circle graph.