

donate recycle don't throw away®



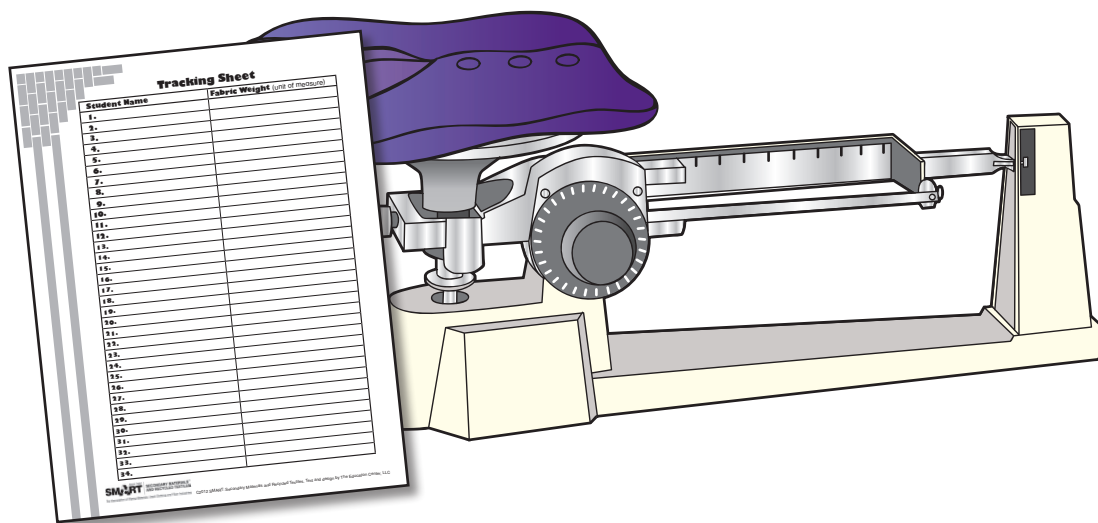
Textile Recycling Measures Up!

Solving problems involving measurement and conversion of measurements from a larger unit to a smaller unit

Give students' measurement skills a workout while demonstrating how quickly clothing and other textiles add up in landfills. Ask each student to bring in one piece of old clothing. (Make sure families know that the clothing won't be returned and will be donated to a charity after the activity.) Using your balance scale, have each student measure the weight of his or her item and list it on the tracking sheet (scroll down). As a class, calculate the total weight of the items and discuss how one might easily find this many items when cleaning out a closet or dresser. Continue the math practice by having students convert pounds to ounces and kilograms to grams. Once the activity is complete, drop off the clothes at a charity.

Teacher tip: For a quick math game, divide the class into teams. Call two pairs of students to the board and have them race to add their textiles' weights, subtract to find which student's textile is heavier and how much heavier it is, convert the combined weights to ounces, or round off the combined weights to the nearest pound or kilogram.

For a quick science investigation, gather several different types of textiles, including towels, T-shirts, socks, and pillowcases. Cut an equal-size piece from each (about the size of a washcloth). Also gather some paper towels. Ask students to predict which item will absorb the most water. Then put equal amounts of water in plastic cups and place the textile pieces inside. After a few minutes, remove the textile pieces and examine the cups to see how much water remains. Students will see how useful recycled textiles can be!



Tracking Sheet

Student Name	Textile Weight (Be sure to list the unit of measure.)
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