SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY KIDS PAGE

What do you know about RECYCLING?

Here are some Trashy Factoids

1. In just one day, Americans toss out 150,000 tons of packaging material. This amount would fill about 10,000 tractor trailers. If all the trucks were lined up end to end, they would stretch for 120 miles.

2. Each American throws out an average of about 4 pounds of garbage a day. If you piled up everyone's daily trash together in a single giant heap, it would weigh more than 438,000 tons. Or if you managed to load it into garbage trucks, you would need 63,000 of them. Lined up end to end, these trucks would stretch for nearly 370 miles — about the distance from Los Angeles to San Francisco.

3. Forty eight million disposable diapers are thrown away each year. If you could manage to unpeel the sticky tabes on each diaper and fasten them all together, you would have a 'diaper chain' that would stretch halfway around the world at the equator.

4. We throw out our old TVs at an amazing rate, too. About 20,000 of them end up in the garbage every day. If you stacked them on top of each other, they would reach almost as high as Mount Everest.

5. Americans get rid of 20,000 cars and 4,000 trucks and buses every day. Lined up end to end, these abandoned vehicles would stretch for about 75 miles.

6. Every day, folks in the USA throw out 43,000 tons of food. That is equal to the weight of about 50,000 compact cars.

Now that school is out... what can you do to help?

- **Select a place** that is important to you...a park, playground, beach...and plan a clean up day to pick up trash, remove weeds, plant a tree or even clean up graffitti.
- **Get permission** before you make big changes, like planting, weeding or painting. Ask an adult to help you contact the owner of the area you wish to "improve".
- **Recruit** some helpers -- your friends and family and classmates.
- **Collect the supplies** you will need to match the jobs you plan to tackle: gloves, trash bags, paper towels, glass cleaner, rakes and shovels. Don't forget to take along a cooler with water to keep hydrated while you work.
- Remember **SAFETY FIRST**...take an adult with you and don't pick up any sharp or rusty objects; ask an adult for help with these.
- If you find any **recyclable items** like aluminum cans, paper or plastic bottles, don't throw them out...take them to a local recycling center instead.
- Be sure to take **before and after photos** of your project.