

Now You See It

Procedure

1. **Collaborate** Work with a partner. Put one item of trash in the bottom of each of four plastic cups. Use a marking pen to label each cup with the item it contains. Then add soil to each cup so it is about three-fourths full. Moisten the soil with a few drops of water. **Safety:** Wear goggles.

2. **Hypothesize** Cover each cup with plastic wrap. Use a rubber band to hold it in place. Place the cups in a sunny window for a week. Make an educated guess about what will happen to each trash item by the end of the week. Record your hypothesis on the lines below.

3. **Observe** After one week, dump the contents of one cup onto a sheet of newspaper. Look closely at the trash item you put in the cup. Record your observations on the lines below. Repeat for each of the other cups. **Safety:** Wear disposable gloves.

Conclusion

Write the answers to the questions below.

1. **Hypothesize** Based on your data, form a hypothesis about what happens to different items of trash you throw away.

2. **Ask Questions** What else do you want to know about trash? Make a list of questions about trash.

Investigate More!

Design an Experiment Plan and carry out a similar experiment using other items you throw away. Describe your experiment and record your observations.