

**FINDING ENVIRONMENTAL
RESOURCES****Model**

Yoshina's class went on a field trip to a recycling center. Yoshina was surprised to discover how many products could be made from recycled materials: toys, carpets, tissues, greeting cards, and more. However, judging from the size of a nearby landfill, she knows that many people dump recyclable items into the trash instead of putting them into recycling bins.

After the trip, Yoshina wanted to find more information about how people can reduce the amount of waste that goes into landfills. Her teacher suggested a few Internet sites and some books in the school library. Yoshina also talked to people who participated in her community's recycling program.



Practice

The more Daniel finds out about local and state efforts to protect the environment, the more he thinks that his family may be disposing of some household items improperly. When his older brother changes the oil in his car, he dumps the used oil down the storm drain. Daniel listens to his portable CD player a lot, and when the batteries die, he just throws them into the garbage. Daniel believes that the habits that he and his family have developed may be damaging the environment. Name at least five resources that Daniel could use to find out about the environmental impact of these practices as well as the proper disposal of hazardous household products. Explain why each source is reliable.

Apply/Assess

In small groups, find reliable information on one of the following environmental issues:

- Acid rain
- Alternative modes of transportation, such as hybrid cars
- Wetlands protection

Conduct research on the Internet. Remember that you will find better information on the Web site of the United States Environmental Protection Agency than from an individual's home page or from a commercial company's Web site. Don't forget to use community resources. The Local Government pages in your phone book include environmental offices that may also help. What other reliable sources could you use? Present your findings to the class in a one-page report.



Accessing Information

Ask yourself these questions about any source of information.

- Is it scientific?
- Does it give only one point of view?
- Is it trying to sell something?
- Does it agree with other sources?

Self-Check

- Did we gather information from a variety of reliable sources?
- Did we use reliable sources to prepare a one-page report on one of the issues listed?

