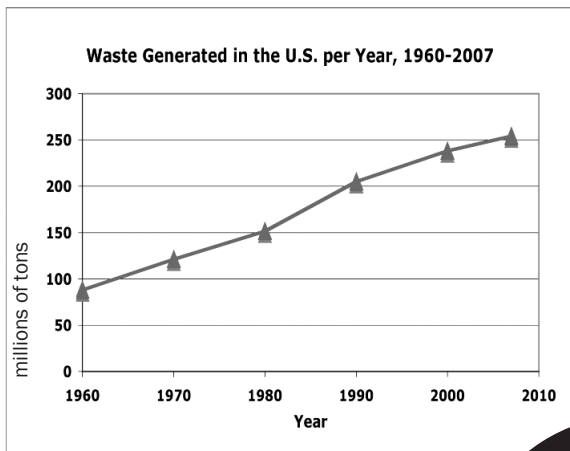


Garbage Stinks, Landfills Leak...

Ethan Contini-Field



For years people have buried or burned their trash. What do people do now? Why is it different? What if you had to keep all your garbage with you?

After 6 months, Americans have kept 1% of their purchases.

Landfill owners and operators bear the cost of leaks for 30-50 years. After that, taxpayers have to pay to fix problems and clean up.



Municipal solid waste contains 80,000 chemicals. The EPA has required the testing of about 200 of them. U.S. laws assume that a chemical is safe unless proven otherwise.

No one wants to live near stinky trash. But it has to go somewhere. Do you live near a landfill? Which communities do you think get dumped on? (See article on pp. 44-45 about disproportionate dumping.)