Landfill Background Check

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Working with your team, answer the following questions as you make your way through the different parts of the webpage. The link to the webpage is found below:

**http://science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/green-science/landfill.htm**

*How Landfills Work*

1. How much trash do Americans produce per day (per person)?
2. Where does the majority of your trash go?

*How Much Trash is Generated?*

1. How much trash was generated in the US in 2006?
2. What percentage of this trash was recycled?

*How is trash disposed?*

1. What percentage of trash is disposed of in **landfills**?

*What is a landfill?*

1. What is the difference between a dump and a landfill?
2. What is the difference between a sanitary landfill and a MSW landfill?
3. What is the purpose of a landfill?

*Proposing the Landfill*

1. What are five things the government will look at when conducting an environmental impact study?
2. What features of soil and bedrock are important when proposing a site for a landfill?

*Parts of a Landfill*

1. What is the purpose of the “bottom liner system” in landfills?
2. What are two ways to keep a landfill as dry as possible (see storm water drainage)?
3. What does the leachate collection system do?
4. What is leachate?
5. Why must the landfill be covered?

*What Happens to Trash in a Landfill*

1. Why doesn’t trash break down in a landfill?
2. How long must the land and water be monitored around a landfill after it closes?