



The Paraphernalia of Smoking

Directions: Read the story, then answer the questions. Write your answer in the space provided, calculate the answer, or circle the letter next to the correct answer.

Did you know that in the United States alone people smoke 1.4 billion cigarettes each day? This makes 70 million cigarette packages and that produces a lot of trash. In a single day just the leftover butts and filters from all of these cigarettes would stretch over 27,600 miles --- enough to circle the entire earth if you placed them end to end! Even though this seems like a tremendous amount of garbage, it doesn't even count the cellophane wrappers on the cigarette packs, the boxes they are shipped in, lighters and lighter fluid, matches, smokeless tobacco pouches and tins, cigar boxes and wrappers, and pipe tobacco pouches. Can you imagine how much trash this is from one country in one day? Most of this is non-biodegradable and is taking up space in landfills where it may take hundreds or thousands of years to degrade. Plus, a huge number of cigarette filters are tossed onto the ground or out of moving cars. Many of these end up being washed into our waterways and in some way or another touch our water supply.

1. If enough cigarette butts to stretch 165,600 miles were placed end to end, how many days worth of leftover cigarettes would this account for?

2. How many cigarette packages are produced in a month in the U.S.?

3. How many cigarettes are smoked every hour in the U.S.?

4. What do you think could be done about all of this trash being produced?

5. Can you think of another product that generates as much trash as cigarettes do? Explain how you would investigate a response to this question.
