



Project Instructions

Litter Scavenger Hunt

Summary

Litter can be found all around us outside when we stop to look for it. You might see wrappers, plastic bags, soda cans, plastic water bottles, or even glass on the ground when you are out on a walk. Litter is harmful for many reasons. One main reason is that it can end up in our waterways and in the ocean. Both ocean and land animals mistake litter for food, and it can harm or even kill the animals that eat it.

What can we do to make a difference when it comes to litter? One easy way we can help is to pick up litter and dispose of it properly so that our oceans and animals are not impacted by our trash. We can also educate people about the harms of littering so that they will make the right choice when it comes to throwing away their trash!



Activity

1. Gather materials: Printed copy of Scavenger Hunt (below), pen or pencil, clipboard, bag to gather litter, gloves, or a baggie to keep your hands clean.
2. Think about a place that you like to walk- it can either be in your neighborhood, a hike you like to go on, or a beach where you go for a walk.
3. Head outside with your materials and see how much litter you can find for your scavenger hunt.
4. Pick up all of the litter you find and then dispose of it either in a trash can or recycling can, if possible.
5. When you finish, check out the follow-up activity below to see what else you can do to help!



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Bonus Activity

- On the back of your scavenger hunt sheet, draw a map of the area where you are picking up litter.
- Mark the map with X's where you find litter. Every time you pick up a piece of litter, record it on your map by putting an X.
- When you get home, look at your map and see if you notice anywhere on your map that has more X's. This is a "Litter Hot Spot" because it is where more litter has gathered than in other places.
- Think about that spot and why it would have more litter... is it near an entrance or exit to a trail, is it near a bus stop, is there an activity happening there, does the spot need a trash can because of the activity there, is the litter blown to the hot spot by the wind from somewhere else or is it flowing down the gutters when it rains?
- What can you do to stop a "Litter Hot Spot"? Some ideas might be:
 - Take action by posting a sign in the area reminding people not to litter.
 - Visit the area often to pick up litter.
 - Write to your local city leaders and ask if a trash barrel can be put in the area to lessen the amount of litter.





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Litter Scavenger Hunt Checklist

Can you find all of the things on this list?



NOTE: Don't pick up any litter without a trash grabber, rubber gloves or protecting your hands with a baggie.

Check off the items when you find them:

- Soda can or juice box
 - Water bottle
 - Plastic cup
 - Coffee cup
 - Candy or snack wrapper
 - Paper
 - Plastic fork, spoon, etc.
 - Fast food wrapper or bag
 - Cigarette butts
 - Straw or straw wrapper
 - A corner of a wrapper
 - A piece of litter bigger than your hand
 - Other_____
 - Other_____
 - What was the strangest litter you found?
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After you have collected all of the litter in your bag, make sure to throw it away or recycle it!

