

Litter Search

Grades: (K-2)

Time: 55 minutes

Overview

Students identify areas with excessive litter in both the school and the surrounding community. Students examine the reasons why people litter and create action plans to reduce litter.

Resources

You will need other adults to supervise the students, if a walk in the community is planned. You will need to make clipboards for the students for this activity. On clipboard, attach a piece of paper with the word "LITTER" photocopied on it. Using string, attach pencils to the clipboards. You may also want to scout around the school grounds prior to conducting this activity. If other adults are available, designate a time and place where they can meet to help supervise your search.

Materials

For each student:

- Cardboard
- Paper
- Pencils
- String
- School map

For teacher:

- Stapler
- Chart paper

Procedure

Warm-up: Tell the students that you'll be going on a litter search around your school. Ask them: "What is litter?" As they give you their definitions, write them on a piece of chart paper. (Older students may wish to plot litter location on a map). Then ask the question, "Why do you think people litter?" and record their answers. Give a clipboard to each of your students and tell them to write down or draw any litter they see. If they find many of the same items, they can use tally marks next to those words / drawings. You may want to show them how to use the tally marks. Have the students begin their search, looking for litter in the school building and on the school grounds. They can collect it in a bag- using tongs, depending on your school policies. Give them 25 minutes. When you return to the classroom, ask the students to share what they found. As they talk about the litter they recorded, you should divide it into categories on our chart paper. You may want to use the following categories: glass, metal, paper, plastic, cloth, food scraps. You could also brainstorm additional categories with the class.

Extension: activities for older students can include a litter or waste audit.