

Litter Detectives (Recycling)

Grade Level: 1st, but could be any grade.
min.

Lesson Time: 30-40

Objective: Students will be encouraged to have a positive attitude against littering and will develop solutions to reduce littering.

Materials: Copies of the map of the school, worksheet for data, lined paper for assessment, plastic bags for each group, and a pair of gloves for each student.

Procedures/Steps:

- 1- Ask the class what “littering” is. Ask the class whether any of the members have littered (make sure to not offend anyone). Why they have littered. Ask the class if they know of any areas around the school where litter can be found? Mark the areas of your map of the school.
- 2- Divide the class into small groups. Using student suggestions, select a destination for each group to search for litter. The locations can be indoor or outdoors and must be as specific as possible. Students will identify the locations on the map. (Goal: is to collect and analyze all litter located within the selected area.) Allow 15-30 minutes for the litter collection.
- 3- After all collection is done, have each group examine the collected litter materials. Each group should categorize the letter and determine the most frequent litter components. Students need to record their data on the worksheet provided. Each group will present their findings to the class.
- 4- After all group presentations discuss the following:
 - Which locations yielded the most litter and why?
 - Can any of the littered items be recycled or used in some other way?
 - By examining the types of litter, can it be determined which age group may be most responsible for the problem?
 - Does the school or community have rules or laws against littering? If so, are the rules or laws enforced? What penalties are involved?
 - How is litter managed at your school?
 - Does the school provide refuse containers near the litter locations?
 - How can the amount of littering be reduced?

Assessment:

Have students write about how they felt of their experience of picking up litter and how they would try to resolve/fix the problem to stop people from littering.

Reflection:

Data Worksheet

Name: _____

How Many Items?	Paper Products	Glass	Metals	Plastics	Others
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10 or more					