



Lesson: Litter Hunt

Grade: K-3

Subject: Science, Arts

Objective:

Students will:

- define what litter is
- describe some effects of litter on the environment
- describe ways that students generate and prevent litter

Teaching Time: 30-45 minutes (half of which is searching time around the school)

Materials: collection bags for litter; surgical-type gloves; newspaper, cardboard or tarp (for sorting); worksheets, Litter Hurts Our World, Litter is Waste in the Wrong Place; transparency: Ways Litter Injures Wildlife

Background:

Litter is waste, trash, or garbage that is out of place. In other words, it has not been discarded properly. There are several sources or causes of litter: careless people walking and riding in cars, uncovered trucks, not enough trash cans, animals which scavenge in poorly covered trash cans of homes and businesses. Litter is ugly and dangerous for both people and animals. It costs time and money to clean up. Litter also wastes natural resources because in many cases, items could be recycled or reused. Some litter is accidental and some is deliberate.

Procedure:

- **What is litter?** After a few answers, take something from the waste basket and drop in on the floor, saying, **This is litter; it is waste that is out of place.**
- **What is wrong with litter?** Students should give many of the answers that are found above in the Background.
- **We are going on a litter hunt around our school to find waste out of place.** Supply each student or pairs of students with a collection bag and a pair of gloves. As you search inside and outside of the school, instruct students NOT to pick up any broken glass, sharp items, bathroom waste, or bandaids.
- Make a trip to the bathroom for all students to wash their hands to demonstrate that litter often has germs on it and can pass germs through the environment from the animals and people that come in contact with it.
- Dump the litter on some newspaper, cardboard or tarp, choose several pieces and ask, **How do you think this became litter? How does litter affect our school?**
- Show transparency, "Ways Litter Injures Wildlife." You may also want to note that other ways litter is dangerous that are not depicted on the overhead are human injuries, such as cutting yourself while walking barefoot and flat tires to bikes and cars.

Reflection/Response:

- Discuss with students why people should not litter. Identify how litter changes the natural environment and may change the way animals interact with their environment. Make a list of things people can do to prevent litter.
- Have each student color and complete the worksheet "Litter Hurts our World."
- Have each student color and complete the worksheet "Litter is Waste in the Wrong Place."

Extension:

- Sing the song, "Litter Is Garbage" in the Fun with Songs Section.
- Make up new words for the song.
- Have students make a decorated pledge card that they sign committing not to litter and to pick up pieces of litter around school and in their community to keep it beautiful and a nice place to live! Students should share this with their parents.



Common Curriculum Goal:

Science: Life Science

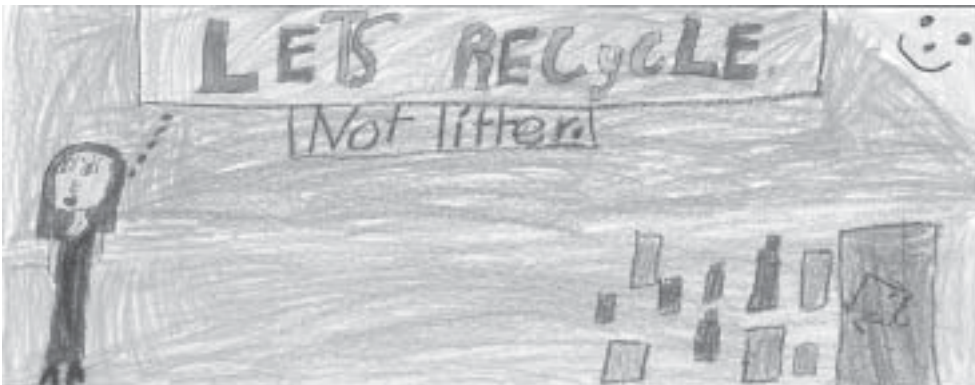
- Diversity/Interdependence: Understand the relationships among living things and between living things and their environments.

Arts: Create, Present, and Perform

- Express ideas, moods and feelings through various art forms.

Grade 3 Benchmark:

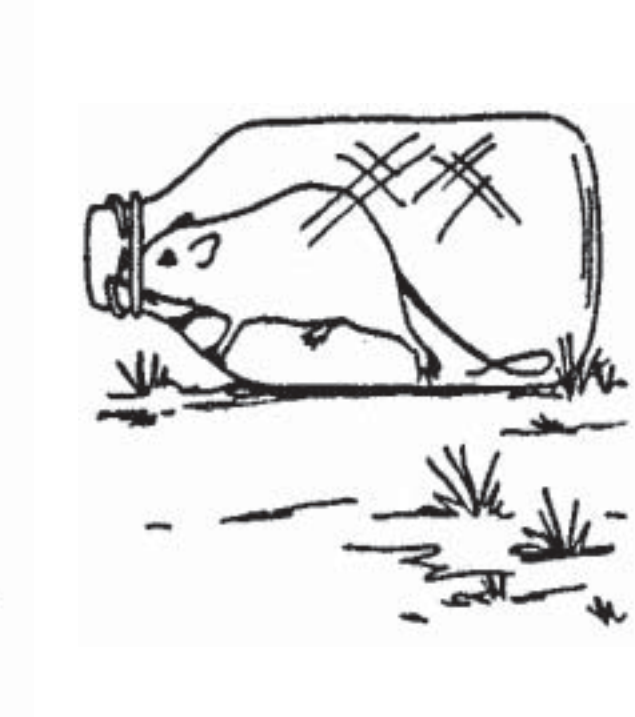
- Describe a habitat and the organisms that live there.
- Communicate, using a simple vocabulary related to various art forms.



Olivia Eggers, Grade 2, Bridgeport Elementary School, Tigard-Tualatin SD 23J, submitted for the Metro Regional Services Earth Day Billboard Contest, 2001.



Overhead: Ways Litter Injures Wildlife



Source: California Integrated Waste Management Board: *Closing the Loop: Exploring Integrated Waste Management and Resource Conservation K-6* (2000)



Overhead: Ways Litter Injures Wildlife





Worksheet: Litter Hurts Our World

Circle each picture that shows a bad thing that can happen when we throw away waste improperly. You will need to draw 4 circles. Label each picture to describe the good and bad things shown.





Worksheet: Litter Is Waste In The Wrong Place

Circle each picture that shows an example of littering, or putting waste in the wrong place. Draw a square around each image that is an example of putting waste in the right place. You will need to draw 5 circles and 3 squares.

