

WASTE DISPOSAL



Litter Walk

Grade Level : 2

Subjects:

Science 2.1, 2.2, 2.7,
2.9

Math 3.1, 3.2, 6.2

Time:

one class period

Setting:

classroom and/or
outside

Materials:

recycled bags, local
litter, used cardboard
for displays or posters

Skills:

observing, classifying
prediction, classifying,
displaying

Vocabulary:

natural
human-made
litter
sort
dispose
compost
natural resource

Source:

Watauga County
Recycling Curriculum
Committee

Summary: Leftovers disposed of improperly become litter. Litter can be human-made or natural. Human-made litter needs to be sorted and disposed of in ways to save some of the natural resources that produced the products.

Objective: Students will identify human-made objects and natural objects. They will classify as litter or not litter.

Background: Solid waste can be classified as natural or human-made. Any waste disposed of improperly is considered litter. Natural litter such as leaves, seed pods, branches can enrich natural systems if left to decompose or if composted. Human-made litter needs to be sorted and disposed of in special ways. This can help save some of our natural resources. Natural means all things made by nature that people or machines cannot make. These include all living things, plants, and animals. It also includes non-living things such as rocks, dirt, and sand. Human-made objects mean anything in our world that people or machines make. To help reinforce vocabulary, see "It's Our Bag" activity (page 2.25).

Leading Question: What is the difference between human-made and natural litter?

Procedure:

1. Write "natural" and "human-made" on a board or poster. Have students brainstorm objects around the room that are natural or human-made. Each student should touch the object and name its primary use.
2. Use recycled bags for litter bags. Students can be teamed for a "litter walk" around the school grounds. Students should record their findings and check if it is human-made or natural litter.
3. In class discuss findings. Each group may sort and display both kinds of waste.

What Now?

1. What is litter?
2. What kinds of litter are there?
3. How should we dispose of the litter we collected? (list examples)
4. Do "Litter Garden" activity on page 2.10.
5. Do the composting activity contained in the lesson "A Rotten Idea" on page 2.2.
6. Fold a piece of paper into fourths. Have each student draw 2 natural and 2 human-made examples of litter.

Litter Walk (Continued)**What Now? (continued)**

7. Feeling Box - Make a "feely box" by cutting a fist size hole in the side of the box. Cut the end off a sock and attach it to the hole. Place several small natural and human-made items in the box. See if students can determine difference by using sense of touch.
8. Sort and Classify
 - Have each student bring in one natural (moss, leaves, branch, seed, shell, fruit, bird's nest, fur, sand, worm, plant, egg, etc.) and one human-made object (key, toy, clothing, pencil, cup, glass bottle, button, crayon, etc.)
 - Place objects on a table where students can view them.
 - Identify each object. Ask student to group objects according to attributes such as color, size, hardness, softness, length, etc.
 - Explore meaning for "natural" and "human-made."
 - Have students arrange the objects into either natural or human-made.
 - Divide class into small groups. Do a litter walk collecting natural and human-made samples of litter. Have each group create a "litter critter".
 - Have students create a story about their "litter critter."
 - Do a matching exercise.

Name: _____

Match each word on the left with the phrase that best describes it.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Trash | A. To find a new use for something instead of throwing it away. |
| Litter | B. A recyclable material made from trees. |
| Reuse | C. To buy less and to throw away less trash. |
| Natural Resources | D. Leaves and grass clippings, vegetable wastes that are broken down by natural forces and can be used on gardens. |
| Landfill | E. Our garbage, all the things we throw away. |
| Recycling | F. Trash that is in the wrong place, such as on the ground or in the street. |
| Paper | G. A manufacturing process that makes something new out of something old. |
| Reduce | H. The place where trash is buried. |
| Compost | I. Things that are found in nature that we must have to live. |

ANSWER KEY
for
"IT'S OUR BAG"

- A. REUSE**
- B. PAPER**
- C. REDUCE**
- D. COMPOST**
- E. TRASH**
- F. LITTER**
- G. RECYCLING**
- H. LANDFILL**
- I. NATURAL RESOURCES**