

 Suffolk recycles

INTRODUCING
**The Little
PICKERS!**

LOVE SUFFOLK
HATE
LITTER



Schools pack

A RESOURCE FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk

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Welcome

WELCOME TO THE LOVE SUFFOLK, HATE LITTER SCHOOLS PACK!

The Suffolk Waste Partnership is very grateful to Norfolk County Council for letting us use this fantastic resource to help Primary Schools raise awareness about litter. This pack will provide schools and teachers support with taking practical action to tackle the problem of litter.

This pack contains lots of information, facts, an assembly plan, curriculum linked activity ideas, games and advice on organising a school litter pick.

Litter free school grounds help to encourage and reflect pupils' respect for their learning environment, a quality that is highly valued by OFSTED.

In addition, litter is one of the Eco schools topics so by taking part in some of the activities in this pack, you could help your school to work towards a prestigious Eco schools award.

For more information about Eco schools please visit:

www.eco-schools.org.uk

We hope you find the information in this pack helpful in enthusing future generations to take some positive action on combatting litter.

Thank you.

Suffolk Waste Partnership

Waste Reduction Team



Finding out the facts

WHAT IS LITTER?

Simply put, litter is rubbish that has been left in an open or public space and shouldn't be there. This includes items that end up on the ground, in lakes, rivers or seas.

Litter can be anything from a piece of chewing gum, leftover sandwich or sweet wrapper dropped in the street or playground, to some old tyres or a piece of furniture fly tipped in a field. The increase in single use plastics and take away fast food is making the problem worse.

WHO CREATES IT?

No specific type of person litters – it can just be a case of a small child accidentally dropping some food in the park or an adult leaving an empty coffee cup next to an overflowing bin. Sometimes littering is done purposefully but it can also be due to circumstance, lack of thought or by accident.

WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

As well as looking unsightly, litter is a form of pollution and causes a potential danger to people and wildlife.

Animals can get trapped inside plastic bags, bottles or cans, cut on broken glass or sharp metal, strangled by the plastic multipack can toppers and choked or poisoned by swallowing litter. According to the RSPCA litter kills tens of thousands of animals a year in the UK.

Broken glass also poses an injury risk to humans, as well as presenting a potential fire hazard.

Food waste is especially culpable for attracting vermin, which again can bring possible health risks.

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

People generally believe that clearing up litter is someone else's job, so education and behaviour change needs to be at the centre of any litter campaign.

Everyone can help to tackle the problem of litter. Simple measures like taking your litter home if there are no bins available when you're out and trying to reduce, reuse and recycle as much as you can all have a positive impact. Organising or taking part in a litter pick, or carrying out a 2 minute beach clean, are great ways of tackling the growing problem of litter.

For more information please visit:

beachclean.net/boardsmap



Litter Assembly

A whole school assembly is a great way to kick off a project about litter and provides the perfect opportunity to make sure everyone knows the facts.

This session could also be run with a smaller group as a classroom-based activity!

RESOURCES

- ✓ **A selection of clean litter/ pictures of litter items (provided)**
- ✓ **What causes litter? picture resource (provided)**
- ✓ **Why is litter a problem? picture resource (provided)**

DELIVERY

Introduce the assembly by explaining that you're going to be finding out about litter – what it is, who creates it, why it's a problem and what we can do about it.



WHAT IS LITTER?

Begin by showing the pupils a selection of clean litter/pictures of litter and posing the question – ‘which items are litter?’

Hold the items up one at a time and ask the pupils to indicate using a thumbs up or thumbs down whether they think the item counts as litter or not. Go with the majority and make two piles – one for litter and one for non-litter.

Explain that potentially all these items could be litter if not disposed of in the correct way.

The definition of litter is:

Rubbish that has been left in an open or public place and shouldn't be there.

Litter Assembly (cont.)

WHO CREATES LITTER?

Ask the pupils to suggest the types of people that they think create litter.

In actual fact it could be anyone! Although some people do drop or leave litter on purpose, sometimes it can happen by accident too.

Show the 'What causes litter?' picture resource and talk about the different ways that litter can be created:

- **Things falling or blowing out of a full rubbish bin**
- **Items left on the floor next to an overflowing bin**
- **A toddler or child might drop a piece of food on the street/in the park**
- **Items put down while you do something else and forgotten about**
- **Something could fall out of someone's pocket accidentally**
- **Sometimes people drop litter because there are no bins**

WHY IS LITTER A PROBLEM?

Ask the pupils what they think the main problems are with litter. Use the '**Why is litter a problem?**' picture resource to help. Try to cover the following:



Poses a danger to wildlife



It's a form of pollution and can especially cause harm in the seas/oceans



Can be dangerous to humans



Broken glass can pose a potential fire risk



It attracts vermin

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

The good news is that we can all help to reduce litter. How can we do that? Take suggestions from pupils and note their suggestions on a whiteboard or flipchart.



Reduce, reuse and recycle our rubbish as much as possible



Make sure all rubbish is placed in a bin



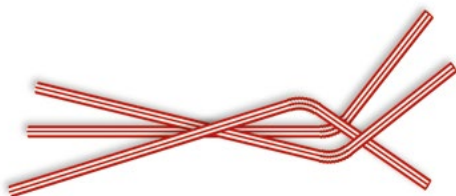
Take rubbish home if there are no bins available when out



Do a litter pick

Examples of litter pictures for you to use!





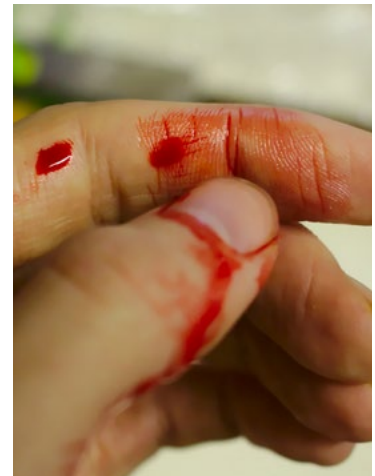
What causes litter?



Use pictures like these to help describe the causes of litter!



Why is litter a problem?



Organising a school litter pick

RESOURCES

- ✓ **Litter picker tools**
- ✓ **Bags for collecting the litter in**
- ✓ **Gloves**
- ✓ **Risk assessment**
- ✓ **Litter tally sheet, clipboards & pencils (optional)**
- ✓ **Plastic sheeting (optional)**
- ✓ **Scales/spring balances (optional)**

INTRODUCTION

Ask the pupils:

- Do you think there is a problem with litter in school? In areas near to the school?
- What causes litter?
- How does the litter look?
- How does seeing litter make you feel?
- What problems can litter cause? (please see assembly notes for further details and resources)

TAKING ACTION

What can we do to reduce litter?

- ✓ **Reduce, reuse & recycle as much as possible**
- ✓ **Make sure all rubbish is placed in a bin**
- ✓ **Take rubbish home if there are no bins available when out**
- ✓ **Do a litter pick !**



Please see the notes on the following pages or visit

www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/learning-zone/get-involved

for details of organisations who run community litter picks that you may be able to get involved with.

Organising a school litter pick

RUNNING THE LITTER PICK

Before undertaking a school litter pick, we recommend that you put together a risk assessment for the activity.

Make the litter pick exciting! Tell the pupils they are litter hunters and it's their job to capture all the pieces of loose litter that have escaped the bins and are causing havoc in the wild!

Before starting the 'litter hunt' discuss some health and safety points that are important for all 'litter hunters' to follow to stay safe (the escaped litter will try anything to get away!). It would also be a good idea for an adult to check the area the litter pick will take place in prior to starting to ensure there are no obvious hazards.

- **Do not** touch the litter with your bare hands, make sure you wear gloves and use the litter picker tools provided
- **Do not** touch your face with gloves on
- **Alert an adult** if anything sharp or dangerous (e.g. broken glass, animal faeces etc) is found and do not touch it (watch out – there may be traps!)
- **Stay within the specified area** (other litter hunters operate outside of this area!)
- **Wash your hands** when the litter pick is finished

Talk about where the litter may be hiding – make sure you look under, behind and all-around things to uncover any secret litter lairs. Try sneaking up on the litter so you can successfully capture it before it gets away again.

Once a piece of litter has been successfully caught, place it safely in your collection bag to make sure it doesn't escape again!

When all the pieces of litter have been recaptured, take them back to the secure bin compound and make sure each item gets placed in its correct place – either the recycling bin or rubbish bin. Close the lids firmly to prevent any further litter break outs!



Organising a school litter pick

VARIATIONS



Litter tally

Ask the children to work in pairs, with one collecting the litter and the other keeping a tally of what was found (please see example sheet provided). You can then use the results to create graphs and work out what the worst offenders are litter wise. Groups could be asked to work in different areas so you can find out whether certain parts of the school grounds are worse than others.



Litter sort

After the litter has been collected, instead of placing it straight into the correct bins, weigh it all to find out how much there was. You could then empty it out onto a plastic sheet (or similar) on the floor and sort it into different item types or 'recycling' and 'non-recycling'.



Learning about litter

If litter's not a huge problem in your school, but you'd like to raise awareness among the pupils about what sorts of things can constitute litter and give them the experience of taking part in a litter pick, you could plant some litter on/around the school playground or field for them to work with.



Litter tally sheet



The Little PICKERS!

Area collected from:

[illegible]

Litter activity ideas

These curriculum linked activity ideas are designed to give you the flexibility to adapt them to suit the needs of your group. They are primarily aimed at Key Stage 2 pupils but could easily be adjusted to suit other age ranges.

ENGLISH

Write clearly, accurately & coherently, adapting language & style for a range of contexts, purposes & audiences



Writing composition



Vocabulary, grammar and punctuation

Write a 'day in the life of...' story about a piece of litter that has been dropped.

- How does it come to be litter?
- Where does it go?
- What problems does it cause?
- What happens in the end?

Make fact files about the problems that litter can cause.

- Research different issues that can be caused by litter getting into the seas or being left in the countryside
- How it can affect wildlife?
- What is the environmental impact?

Write some litter related poetry.

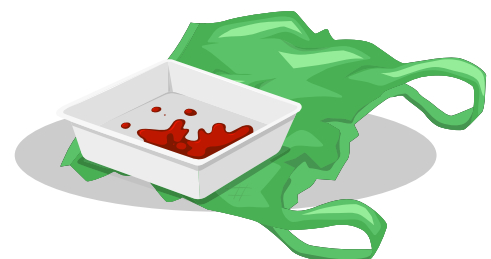
- It could take the form of an acrostic poem
- It could aim to highlight the dangers of litter
- It could aim to give advice about how to avoid litter

Write a persuasive letter to the school newspaper (or similar) urging people to take more action on litter.

- Make sure you include persuasive language
- Outline the reasons why action is needed
- Explain what could be done to reduce littering

Write an instructional text on how to safely carry out a litter pick

- Think about what equipment will be needed
- Think about anything special you'd need to keep everyone safe
- Include information about what you are going to do with the litter after you've collected it



Litter activity ideas

MATHS

Solve problems by applying mathematics

✓ **Statistics**

Complete a litter survey around your school or local community to find out which items are most frequently found as litter.

- Use a tally to record what types of litter you find and how much there is
- Present your findings in graph form

SCIENCE

Working scientifically

✓ **Everyday materials and their properties**

Use an example selection of clean 'litter' and sort it into different groups.

- Items could be grouped by material type to find out which is the most frequently littered
- Items could be sorted into categories of what could be reduced, reused or recycled in order to avoid it becoming litter

HISTORY

Understand historical concepts & use them to make connections, draw conclusions, draw contrasts & analyse trends

✓ **Historical skills**

✓ **Changes in living memory**

Investigate how rubbish was dealt with during World War 2 compared to now.

- Was there much litter during the wartime? Why not?
- In what ways did people make sure that there was minimal waste?
- Interview older relatives or local residents to find out about their experiences

Find out about the effects of plastic breaking down in the environment.

- Think about how long plastic takes to decompose if it's dropped as litter and what problems this can cause
- Think about microplastics and their impact on the oceans, wildlife and food chain
- Use a range of information sources to do your research



Litter activity ideas

ICT

Data representation

- ✓ Use technology purposefully
information handling

Use ICT to present findings of a litter survey/tally.

- Use spreadsheets
- Show using graphs

Create a power point (or similar) presentation to raise awareness of the problems with litter.

- Who will your audience be?
- What information do you need to include?

GEOGRAPHY

Develop competency in using geographical skills

- ✓ Using maps, atlases & globes

Draw a plan of your school grounds and map where all the bins are.

- Record any areas where litter is a problem
- Redesign the school grounds, thinking about where bins could be placed to attempt to reduce the amount of litter

ART

Become proficient in a range of craft and design techniques

- ✓ Everyday materials and their properties

Produce creative work

- ✓ Use a range of materials creatively

Create a piece of artwork or a sculpture out of clean litter to raise awareness of the problem.

- You could create an animal out of some pieces of litter that can harm wildlife
- You could create a large class collage to represent the types of litter that often pollute the seas
- You could create contrasting pictures of the same place – one showing what it's like when it's clean and the other what it's like full of litter

Create posters to encourage people to protect wildlife.

- How can you show the problems litter causes?
- What can people do to stop this?
- Remember to make your poster eye catching and the information clear



Litter activity ideas

DT

Develop creative, technical & practical expertise

✓ **Design, make, evaluate & use technical knowledge**

Create a new invention that can decrease litter.

- Will it be something that stops people from dropping litter in the first place?
- Will it be something that collects litter and disposes of it correctly?
- Will it be a new material that is automatically attracted to a bin?

MUSIC

Learn to create & compose music on their own & with others

✓ **Improvise & compose music for a range of purposes for a range of purposes**

Use some clean pieces of litter to create musical instruments.

- How will you play them? (hit them, scrunch them, put beans inside and shake them etc)
- Could you use them to create a 'litter song' that could be presented to the class or rest of the school?
- Think about what different types of sound can be created with different items/materials



The Little PICKERS!



Litter wordsearch

All these items of litter should go in the recycling bin.
Can you find them in the grid below?

Shampoo bottle

Envelopes

Aerosol

Magazine

Yoghurt pot

Glass jar

Juice carton

Foil

Plastic tub

Egg box

Drink can

Spray bottle



A	F	S	P	R	A	Y	B	O	T	T	L	E	A	Z
H	C	E	T	K	G	T	O	I	M	K	L	V	F	O
P	G	A	C	J	U	I	C	E	C	A	R	T	O	N
Q	Y	L	S	S	Y	L	E	V	S	T	C	M	I	V
D	I	R	A	T	O	N	M	S	T	Y	E	A	L	A
R	R	O	E	S	X	E	C	L	Z	O	Z	P	Y	E
I	N	S	T	D	S	A	R	B	N	G	L	L	I	N
N	V	E	D	M	E	J	Q	A	F	H	X	A	E	V
K	N	T	K	A	D	Q	A	E	W	U	G	S	W	E
C	M	Y	F	E	Z	E	N	R	C	R	Q	T	Y	L
A	L	A	E	L	G	V	X	O	S	T	O	I	F	O
N	W	Q	G	T	F	A	K	S	D	P	Q	C	X	P
W	O	S	H	A	M	P	O	O	B	O	T	T	L	E
A	E	X	K	N	Z	K	E	L	K	T	S	U	A	S
B	M	E	Z	V	C	I	X	T	A	W	F	B	S	C
H	T	Z	D	O	D	O	N	W	F	S	T	Q	O	K
U	O	G	F	T	E	V	G	E	G	G	B	O	X	A

Litter maze

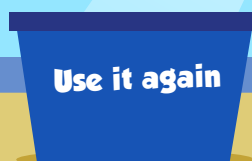
Find your way through the maze and guide the rubbish to the correct bin before it gets left behind as litter!



Sort and recycle your picnic

Make sure you don't leave litter after a picnic. Instead take your rubbish home and put it in the right bin.

Draw arrows to show what you should do with this leftover picnic waste.



When will it be gone?

How long will it take for these items of litter to decompose (rot away)?

Draw arrows to match each piece of litter to the correct amount of time!



Plastic bottle

1 month



Paper bag

up to 2 years



Aluminium can

80-100 years



Glass bottle

200 years



Banana skin

450 years



Nappy

500 years



Plastic straw

Forever





Worms and Ladders

WITH **The Little PICKERS!**

Keep Suffolk clean on your way to becoming a Little Picker!

40

Congratulations!
You are now a Little Picker!

39

38

37

36

You leave plastic biscuit wrappers on the beach

31

You throw an empty drinks cup out of the car window

32

You put your rubbish in the bin properly so it can't fall out again

33

34

35

30

29

You leave your banana skin laying on the playground

28

You help with a litter pick at school

27

26

21

22

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24

25

You drop your chewing gum in the street

20

19

You check you haven't left any litter before leaving the park

18

17

You help your family with a 2 minute beach clean

16

11

You put your picnic food in reusable tubs to avoid making litter

12

13

You drop a sweet wrapper on your way home from school

14

15

10

9

8

7

You leave your empty drinks can on the ground next to an overflowing bin

6

You take your crisp packet home as there are no bins when you're out

1

Start!

2

3

You put your empty plastic bottle in the recycling bin

4

5



1.3m pieces of rubbish are dropped on UK roads every weekend*



7 out of every 10 items of discarded litter is food packaging or wrappers**



8 million tonnes of plastic end up in our oceans every year**

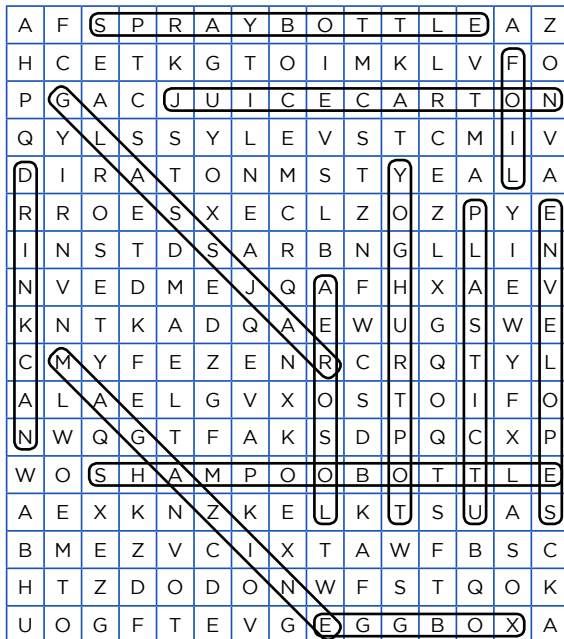


It can take up to 2 years for a dropped banana skin to fully decompose (rot away)*

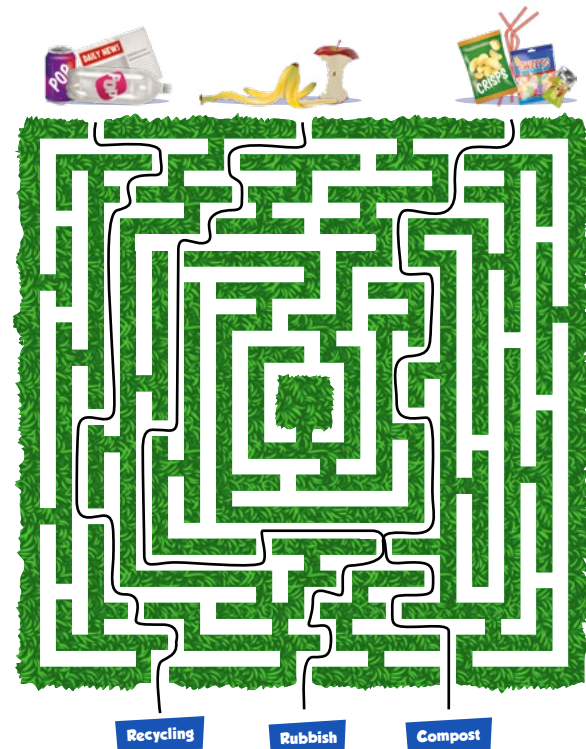


Answer Sheet

1. LITTER WORDSEARCH



2. LITTER MAZE



3. SORT AND RECYCLE YOUR PICNIC



4. WHEN WILL IT BE GONE?

Paper bag	=	1 month
Banana skin	=	up to 2 years
Aluminium can	=	80-100 years
Plastic straw	=	200 years
Plastic bottle	=	450 years
Nappy	=	500 years
Glass bottle	=	Forever

Further sources of information



To find out more about the topic of litter please visit the following websites:

www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk

Lots of information about rubbish, recycling and waste reduction initiatives in Suffolk.

www.eco-schools.org.uk

Further information about the Eco-schools awards programme and how to get involved.

www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/learning-zone/get-involved

Details about getting involved with, or organising a community litter pick.

beachclean.net

For information about the '2 minute beach clean'. Please click on the 'Boards' menu button and select 'Map' to find locations in this area.

worldschildrensprize.org/litterfacts

Lots of information about how litter can be harmful, especially to marine life when it ends up in the oceans.

www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/litter

Information about how litter affects wildlife.

www.litterbins.co.uk/blog/the-facts-about-litter

Some interesting litter facts.

www.cpre.org.uk/resources/energy-and-waste/litter-and-fly-tipping/item/1920-how-to-run-a-whole-school-litter-campaign

Access Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's Litter Resource Pack. Please note that this pack was produced in 2004 so some of the facts and figures may now be out of date, however it contains lots of useful information about the problems with litter, a range of activity ideas and includes a large selection of photographs showing how litter can cause injury to wildlife.