



Identify Litter in the World Around You*

Activity E.j

GRADE LEVELS: 4-6

OBJECTIVE: To help children identify litter in the world around the.

VOCABULARY: litter, litterbug

PROCEDURE:

Have the children look for signs of pollution on the way to and from school. Tell them to focus on the garbage they see strewn along the ground. Alternatively, you could take younger children on a "litter hunt" and have them record the number of different types of litter they see.

Ask the following questions:

What is the most common type of litter?

Where is the most litter found?

What is a litterbug?

Organize a litter cleanup of your school or neighborhood, or a local recreational area. As children collect the litter, have them sort it into proper categories (paper, plastic, aluminum, tin cans, etc.). A variation would be to conduct a "litter rap" around the school grounds or a block adjacent to school property. With a rap beat playing on a portable tape player in the background, have children spot pieces of litter, then make up short "raps" one at a time to describe them. For example:

Can on the street is not too neat,
Ugly litter I kick with my feet.
I see a bottle beside that fence.
Let's bring it in and earn five cents!
That paper's from a burger and fries
Wish someone hid it away from my eyes.

You might wish to record the song as children make it up a verse at a time, or have children write down their own "raps." Then compile them into a song to perform for the grade or school.

* Adapted from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: Let's Reduce and Recycle: Curriculum for Solid Waste Awareness