

Litter Picker Large

This litter picker is an easy way for children to pick-up litter without getting too dirty. Getting children involved with tidying their planet may prevent them from littering it and it may teach them to look after and care for their environment. Once children have been litter-picking there are activities that can be carried out with the litter to raise awareness of the effects littering can have on our environment.

One idea is to ask the children to put the litter in order of the time it will take to decompose. You can also ask them about what effect different items could have on people and animals around the area, for example: glass getting into the paws of dogs.

This exercise can also be extended by asking the children to identify how much of the material found could have been recycled.

For older children, this exercise could be extended even further by relating it to some maths activities.

- Ask the children to work out the percentage of rubbish that could have been recycled and present it in a pie chart or graph.
 - Translate the results from percentage to decimals and fractions.
 - Ask the children to tally the types of material they found and present it in a graph.
 - Give the children some figures on recycling and ask them to present this in a graph or pie chart.
 - Here are some examples of facts and questions related to them.
- If approximately 30% of rubbish is recycled throughout the UK today and the target is to be recycling 55% of rubbish by 2015, what is the percentage increase? What fraction of rubbish will be being recycled? Translate this fraction into a decimal.
 - 70% less energy is required to recycle paper compared to making it from raw materials. How much energy is required to recycle paper? Present this answer as a fraction.
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ of household rubbish could be composted so that it doesn't fill-up landfill sites. What percentage is this?
 - In the average family rubbish bin at least 65% of our current waste could be sensibly recycled. How much rubbish can't be recycled? Present this answer as a decimal. Present the results in a pie chart.
 - In the average family rubbish bin at least 65% of our current waste could be sensibly recycled. If there are four people in a family, what percentage of rubbish is each person responsible for?
 - Each year an estimated 6.3 million tones of packaging comes into British homes. If 65% of this waste can be recycled, how many tones of rubbish is this?

- More than 70 per cent of our household waste could be recycled, in practice, we only manage to recycle just under one-third, the rest goes into landfill. How much goes to landfill? Present the answer as a percentage and a decimal.
- The average family gets through 500 glass bottles and jars a year but only 30 per cent are recycled. If you were to look at 6 family's glass bottles and jars a year, how many are recycled?
- The average family gets through 500 glass bottles and jars a year but only 30 per cent are recycled. How many glass bottles and jars are recycled per month per family?
- Aluminum is one of the most valuable of recyclable materials. The energy it takes to make one new aluminum can is enough to make 20 recycled ones. If the amount of energy needed to make one new can is 80 BTU's, how much energy is needed to make 1 recycled can?

This is all good practice of maths problems.

*(These facts and more can be found at:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/food/food_matters/packaging1.shtml)*

A task to make children more aware of how they can help alleviate litter problems is to create a map of your school and give them stickers or markers to pin point on the map where the worst litter problems are. This way the children can be more aware of those areas and pay more attention to not dropping litter there.

Ask the children to write about ways they can help prevent litter problems, and the effects the litter can have in the areas they have pin pointed on the map. Eg: wildlife, younger children in the school, etc.

You could also set the children the task of making a table and taking note of the progress of how much litter is being dropped.

Area Number	Date	What you've done to help.	How much litter is there on a scale of 1 to 10?
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			