



Conducting a Litter Survey

Suitable for 8+ years old

For teachers/leaders

Links to geography - maps, symbols, keys.
Maths – quantifying, sorting into categories.
Skills – teamwork, responsibility, citizenship.

Environmental Aim: To create a cleaner playground/park/woodland, and to learn that to keep places nice we must not drop litter.

Materials Required: Graph paper, coloured pens, a plastic bag, protective gloves, and a notebook.

Method:

Step One - Draw a map or grid of the area to be studied (the size of the area will depend on the age of participants). Make sure that the locations of any bins are marked onto the map.

Step Two - The group decides on codes to describe the different litter types, eg drinks can = red cross, crisp packet = blue cross. Draw a key at the bottom of the map.

Step Three - Taking the map with you, go out into the area that is being studied and start looking for litter. Put on your gloves. Each time you find a piece of litter put it into the bag and mark where you found it on the map (using the correct code).

Step Four - Once back inside, count how many pieces of litter have been collected in total and how many of each litter type.

Step Five - Draw a table showing how many pieces of each litter type was found.

Discuss: Where is most litter being dropped? Are the bins in the right places? Who is responsible for keeping the area litter-free? How can you help?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Litter can be weighed and recorded daily to see if there are any changes.
- 2) Carry out surveys at different times of day to see when most litter is being dropped.
- 3) Write a proposal to the Head Teacher or local council, suggesting that bins are installed in the areas where most litter is being dropped.