

# Neighborhood Litter Watch

Seeing what people throw in the streets and finding solutions to the problem.

*Grade Level:* Primary, Intermediate, Secondary

*Students will be able to:*

1. Identify what kind of litter is thrown in the streets.
2. Classify the types of litter
3. Organize solutions to the litter problems

*Assessment Strategies:*

1. Research quality
2. Oral Presentation
3. Solution to problems

*Procedures:*

*Discussion:*

Discuss with the students what litter is and why people litter. Tell them that there are many items that people throw out into the streets. Whether it be from a person in a car throwing a soda can out of the window, or someone walking down the street cleaning their coat pockets, litter comes from many different people.

Make a list on the chalkboard of items that the students might expect to find on the sidewalks and gutters of their neighborhoods. Keep a copy of the list to discuss at a later date.

*Activity:*

Have the students walk around the neighborhood in groups to see what kinds of trash they find. Tell them to take notice if anybody litters while they are researching. One person in the group should keep a list of items that they find in about an hour of walking.

The following day, have groups present their findings to the class. Keep another list on the board of each item, and a tally of how many were found by the whole class. Have students compare the present list to the items they listed in the previous lesson.

Was there anything they didn't find from the original list?

What kinds of trash were most prevalent?

Why do you suppose that these items are the most frequently discarded?

*Extension:*

Organize a clean-up of the streets around the school. On a sunny day, have another teacher or school staff member assist in guiding the students to clean up the area surrounding the school. Make sure to bring protective gloves for handling the litter, and to wash thoroughly afterwards.