

Binbag Autopsy



Safety First

When carrying out this activity, please do not touch litter with your bare hands. Always use gloves or a litter picker.

The first step in solving a litter problem is finding out what is being dropped and where it's coming from. In this exercise, you'll investigate the types of litter being dropped in your community and make an Action Plan to stop it.

You will need:

- A bag of litter
- Litter pickers or gloves
- Something to write with
- A tarp if you're indoors

What to do:



Collect a binbag full of litter from your school grounds, local park, woodland or beach.



Sort everything in the bag into categories: plastic bottles, glass, food packaging, etc. **What** are you finding?



Examine the litter for clues that might identify where it has come from. Plot these locations on your map. **Where** is it coming from? **Who** might be dropping it?



Are there bins on the route between where the litter came from and where it was found? Plot these on your map.



Gather up the litter and make sure it's disposed of correctly. Remember to wash your hands!



Why do you think we find so much litter now as opposed to 50-100 years ago? (Hint: what is most of the litter you found made of?)



Thinking about everything you've just learned, what do you think could be done to reduce or eliminate this litter problem? **How** can we stop it? Fill in your Action Plan.

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Knowing what kinds of items are being littered will help you take action to stop the problem. Use these boxes to count the number of items in each category with tally marks. Use the blank boxes to make categories of your own.

<p>Plastic Bottles</p> 	<p>Drinks Tins</p> 	<p>Takeaway Containers</p> 
<p>Glass Bottles</p> 	<p>Crisp & Sweet Packets</p> 	<p>Coffee Cups</p> 
<p>Dog Fouling</p> 	<p>Smoking litter</p> 	<p>Disposable Vapes</p> 
<p>Food Waste</p> 	<p>Plastic Bags</p> 	<p>Face Masks</p> 

Litter Action Plan

What could we do?	Who could help?	What would we need?