

LITTER IS WASTE OUT OF PLACE

RATIONALE:	<p>Litter is waste material that escaped from the waste handling system. Litter is manmade or man-used materials.</p> <p>There are seven main places in our community where materials are most apt to escape:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Home garbage cans 2. Business and commercial garbage cans and dumpsters 3. Trucks with loads improperly tied down or covered 4. Construction or demolition sites 5. Loading docks and commercial storage areas 6. Materials thrown, dropped, or blown from cars 7. Materials thrown or dropped by pedestrians <p>Most people think of litter as coming from motorists and pedestrians. Many people are too quick to blame children and young adults for all litter problems, but the problem can come from many places in our community.</p>
SUBJECTS:	Social Studies, Science, Math, Home Economics
GRADES:	K-5
LEARNING OUTCOME:	Students will pick up litter and discuss what it is, why it is where it is, where it comes from, and suggest some methods to control it.
LEARNING PROCEDURE:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss where litter comes from. Ask: What is litter? Why is there litter? Where might you find litter? How can you and your family help prevent litter? 2. Bring in examples of different types of litter and identify the location where it was found. 3. Have the children save their lunch sacks or bring a grocery sack from home. Take the children for a walk around the playground, school grounds or nearby neighborhood, picking up human-made litter. Have them record items and where they were found. Upon returning to the classroom, have the children empty their trash collections onto pieces of newspaper. Have each child talk about what they found and where it was found. Ask: What might have caused litter in that place? Why? How? Make a list of responses on the board, and have the children categorize the litter according to the types of material. Discuss whether it can be reused or recycled. 4. Have the children make a list of who, besides themselves, can prevent litter in their neighborhood and school. Students may want to make a map of their neighborhood and school indicating where litter receptacles are located. After discussion, the children could indicate on their maps if more receptacles are needed and where they should go.

	<p>5. Many communities are recognizing the sources of litter and developing programs and educational material to teach people how to keep waste materials from escaping and becoming litter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home garbage --- Use only trash containers with tight fitting lids as paper or plastic bags can be opened by animals. Trash cans without lids or with loose lids can be knocked over by animals, and the wind can move trash several blocks or even miles! • Business trash --- Tight, closed lids and even locks are sometimes needed • Truck loads --- If loads are not tied down, many dangerous materials fall or are blown from the truck. Air pressure increases as trucks speed up, and loose material blows out of truck beds. Tarps and ties are essential when hauling loads in the backs of trucks. Remind truck owners not to throw lightweight objects (such as plastic bags, bottles, boxes, etc.) in truck beds as they easily blow out! • Construction and demolition sites --- Fences around construction sites keep materials from blowing out into the neighborhood. Putting waste materials into proper containers and tarping truck loads keep construction sites clean and construction materials off our roads. • Loading docks --- Keeping storage bins or dumpster tops closed and the area clean keep this material in place and away from the rest of the neighborhood. • Motorists --- Car litter bags and litter containers at rest areas, gas stations, and fast food stores are both important to controlling auto littering. • Pedestrians --- Sidewalk litter receptacles and good habits help control this source of litter. <p>With all of the above sources of litter, the two most important things are: (1) People knowing that they can be a part of the problem or a part of the solution, and (2) People caring for their community's public health and quality of their environment.</p> <p>Ask: How can we prevent litter at school and in our community?</p>
<p>PRE & POST TEST QUESTIONS:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is litter? 2. Who causes litter? How and where do waste materials escape to become litter? 3. In what ways does litter affect public health and the environment? 4. Where might you find litter? 5. How can litter be prevented?