

# THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF LITTER

## STUDENT LITTER CLEANUP CHALLENGE & INTERACTIVE VIDEO LESSON

**Contest Objective:** Let's get our kids outside and connect to our natural environment by participating in a [Litter Cleanup Challenge](#)!

Classes pick up litter in a local greenspace, school yard, or park. Teachers can enter classes to win an end of the year "Oh Doughnut" class party by filling out this [entry form](#). **Contest runs from May 1 to June 16, 2021.**

This challenge can be done in-person, or with classes learning remotely. If any students participate remotely, they can send photos of the clean-up to their teacher, who will submit them through our entry form. Be sure to practice safe physical distancing and follow all [public health recommendations](#).

**Lesson Objective:** Students explore the environmental impact of litter on ecosystems and wildlife including decomposition, plastics, and what students can do to take action.

### Video Links:

[Information for educators](#)

[Interactive Video Lesson](#)

### Materials Needed:

- Computer to play interactive video lesson
- Optional: Whiteboards, Mentimeter, Chart paper to encourage class discussions
- Garbage bags & gloves for students for litter pick-up challenge

**Time:** Video Runtime is 25 minutes. Please allow approximately 40 minutes to pause the video for discussion.

### **Activate:**

In the [interactive video lesson](#), students are asked a few questions including: *What are the last 5 pieces of garbage you threw away? What is litter? Where do you usually find litter?* Option to expand with *What is the most common type of litter that you see? Who is responsible for litter clean-up?*

Option to use a [Think, Pair, Share](#) strategy, collect responses on [Mentimeter](#), [jamboards](#), or use whiteboards/chart paper.

\*Use these questions to generate class discussion!

**Acquire:**

Play the rest of the [interactive video lesson](#). There are various points to press pause and generate discussion. Students will:

- Exploration of the environmental impact of specific types of litter on ecosystems & wildlife
- Exploration of decomposition of litter, plastics and microplastics
- Generate ideas around what we can do to take action

**Apply:**

Take your class outside and enter into our [Student Litter Cleanup Challenge](#)! Students travel outside to a local park, greenspace, or schoolyard to pick up as much litter as they can. Fill out the [entry form](#) to enter your class to win an end of the year doughnut party!

**Further Application & Exploration:**

- Have students determine what type of litter is most abundantly found. What is the environmental impact of this litter? Generate ideas as to how this type of litter could be reduced.
- Track your class garbage! Put a coffee tin on top of your garbage can and have a “limit” of how much garbage your class is able to produce in a day!
- Have a one day or one week “garbage tracker” where students track how much garbage they produce. At the end of the week, take a look and create an action plan as to how this amount of garbage could be reduced.
- Create a statement art piece! Using a hot glue gun and other repurposed materials, create an art piece of one-week of garbage!
- Generate a school-wide anti-litter campaign. Have students share their knowledge about the environmental impacts of litter through posters, presentations, poetry or an “elevator pitch.”

**Additional Resources:**

- [Refuse Refuse: A Guide to Waste Reduction in Manitoba Schools](#)
- [Upcycled Craft Ideas](#)
- [Further waste lesson plans and resources - K-12](#)

**Curricular Connections:**

- There are multiple curricular connections in science, social studies, and phys.Ed grades K-12. See the [curricular connections](#) to this lesson.

[Contest Rules and Regulations](#)