

# Litterbugs beware!

Students run an anti-litter campaign within the whole school

## Curriculum Links

Society and Environment	Place and Space Natural and Social Systems Active Citizenship	People and places; Care of places Natural systems; Political and legal systems Democratic process; Social justice; Ecological sustainability
Science	Science in Daily Life Acting Responsibly Science in Society	Applying and integrating science within our lives Impacts, ethics & decision-making The nature and people of science
Health & PE	Knowledge and Understandings Interpersonal Skills	Promoting well-being Relationship skills; Working with others

## Outcomes

*Students will understand that*

- People's activities have planned and unplanned impacts on the natural environment
- Human activities influence the health and safety of wildlife and our natural environment
- Decisions made now about caring for the environment (sustainability) will affect people's wellbeing in the future

## Background information

This activity consolidates all the information of the previous activities completed by the students. It will need to be completed over several lessons and a period of time within the whole school.

## Focus questions

- How can we prevent people from littering?

## Preparation

- Make sure you seek permission to conduct your campaign throughout the school and inform all the necessary parties.
- Have materials available to students for artwork, such as large sheets of paper, paints, colouring implements, glue etc.

*Tip: Encourage staff to enrol as Litter Reporters on the Keep Australia Beautiful website [www.kabc.wa.gov.au](http://www.kabc.wa.gov.au)*

## Activity

1. Revise what the students have learnt about litter during the course of these activities:
  - What is litter? (review your list of litter items and see if you can add any more)
  - What are the effects of litter?
  - What are the laws about littering?
  - How and why do people litter?
  - What can be done to prevent people from littering?
2. Ask the students to develop an anti-litter campaign for your school. Choose a key message, phrase or slogan to use for your campaign.
3. Depending on the level of the students, work out activities and strategies which could include any of the following:
  - drawings
  - posters or power point presentations which highlight the effects of litter
  - artwork, such as painting school wheelie bins with correct litter disposal messages
  - mural or visual display on anti-littering placed in a prominent position in the school, e.g. library
  - advertising
  - letters
  - logo or slogan
  - radio jingle or "rap" song which could be performed at an assembly
  - drama skits demonstrating littering behaviour or litter hazards
  - school litter character or mascot who could promote anti-litter messages at lunchtimes, give out awards at assemblies or appear on posters around the school encouraging good practice

4. In society there are fines for people who litter, what kind of sanctions and rewards could you develop in the school for littering? Here are some examples:
- Litter 'fines' – students caught littering can be reported and a suitable 'fine'/sanction issued. *Tip: do not make picking up litter a sanction, rather encourage and reward it.*
  - Green Cards – duty teachers issue to students seen to be doing the right thing with litter and place into a box for a weekly prize draw.
  - Waste Free Wednesdays – competitions for the class producing the least rubbish; the canteen can be involved by using plastic containers instead of styrofoam boxes and a dishwasher for reusing containers and cups for drinks.
  - Adopt a Spot – each class adopts a different area of the school and commits to keeping it clean and litter-free. This encourages students to take pride and ownership. A "Clean Class" award could be given out at assemblies for the class who keeps their area litter-free for the whole week.

## Extension ideas

### Society and Environment

- Research existing school policies on litter and waste.
- Conduct whole school litter audits on a regular basis to measure any changes in littering.
- Research slogans used around the world to promote the anti-littering message.
- Hold a litter-free sports day, or other school event, and promote this initiative to the local community.
- After a period of time conduct the litter survey again and note any changes in people's attitudes.
- Adopt a local area to keep clean. Talk to the council about a suitable site close to the school. Erect a sign stating that your class and school are working towards restoring that area.
- Get the local newspaper involved to help whole community awareness – students write articles or get a photographer in for a litter activity in the school.
- Become a Waste Wise School and see how insignificant a problem litter becomes as students enjoy doing the right thing with their waste – contact [wastewise@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:wastewise@dec.wa.gov.au)

### The Arts

- Draw a picture of what you would like your school to look like before and after the campaign.
- Artist in Residence – arrange for a hands-on workshop with an artist from the Visual Arts Foundation WA using a medium of your choice such as painting, murals, fabrics, recycled materials, 3D, puppets and more. Contact 9383 4878 or email [visualarts@iinet.net.au](mailto:visualarts@iinet.net.au).
- Students enter the National Environmental Art competition – see [www.planetkids.biz](http://www.planetkids.biz)

### Technology and Enterprise

- Take photos of litter in the school before and after your campaign.

### English

- Design a flyer or postcard encouraging people not to litter and send to family and friends.

## Some useful websites

[www.preschooleducation.com/search.shtml](http://www.preschooleducation.com/search.shtml) – great litter songs based on tunes we all know  
[www.enviropromotions.com.au](http://www.enviropromotions.com.au) – Captain Clean Up has some good litter songs on his CD  
[www.litter.vic.gov.au](http://www.litter.vic.gov.au) – Victorian Litter Action Alliance has good campaign information  
[www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au) – EPA NSW has slogans, stickers, posters, etc from their campaign  
[www.encams.org](http://www.encams.org) – Keep Britain Tidy campaign with slogans and posters

