Trash Tally Student Worksheet

What You Are Going to Do

With your group, you are going to collect, sort and weigh trash to figure out what portion of it is recyclable, how it got there and how to solve the trash problem.

Objectives

After completing this activity, you should…

- Understand how trash moves through the watershed and ends up in our streams, rivers and bays;
- Explain how much of the trash you find could and should have been recycled or reused; and
- Be able to give two examples of how people's actions are contributing to this major environmental problem.

Materials Needed

Your group will need:

- Trash collection bags – one for recyclables, and one for all other trash
- A clipboard
- This worksheet
- A spring scale (to weigh your trash)

Part A. Collect the Trash

1. One person in your group needs to be the data recorder. This person will use the clipboard and the data table to record the data you collect during this activity.

2. Collect all of the trash in your area. Separate recyclables from non-recyclables in different bags.

3. When you have a full bag, take it to the data recorder. This person will weigh it and record the weight on the data table.

4. After the trash collection time is over, dispose of all the trash as your teacher tells you.

Part B. Collect the Data

Now we need to collect the data from the entire class.

5. Your teacher will put each group's data on the board. Copy down the all of the data on your data table.
6. Calculate the total weight of the following categories and fill in these numbers on your data sheet:
    - all of the bags,
    - just recyclable bags, and
    - just the non-recyclable bags.

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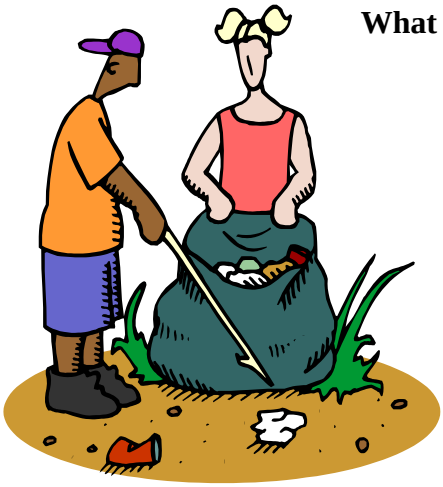
Part C. Analyze the Data

7. Answer the questions below to analyze your data.

What are the most common types of litter?

Explain how the litter got here.

Explain which kinds of litter are dangerous to wildlife or the environment and why.



What else can we do to help solve the problem?

Trash Tally Data Table

Bag #	Recyclable? (Yes or No)	Weight of bag

Total Weight of Recyclables = _____

Total Weight of Non-Recyclables = _____

Total Weight of All Trash = _____