

Litter Walk

Introduction

Litter is unsightly, but the harm it does goes far beyond just looking like a mess. More than one million seabirds die each year from being tangled up in plastic trash or from eating it.

Ocean litter may come from anywhere because much of it is carried to the sea by rivers. Plastic waste also causes problems for birds on land. They may become entangled in it and can't fly, or they find small pieces of it and feed it to their young. Disposing of trash properly is a valuable way to help save the lives of birds and other wildlife.

Supplies

- Trash bags
 - Rubber gloves
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Get kids thinking ...

Ask kids to name products that they use regularly. Ask: How many of these products come in plastic packaging? How do they dispose of these products? Where do these products go once they have disposed of them?

WATCH:

FACTS ON PLASTIC POLLUTION

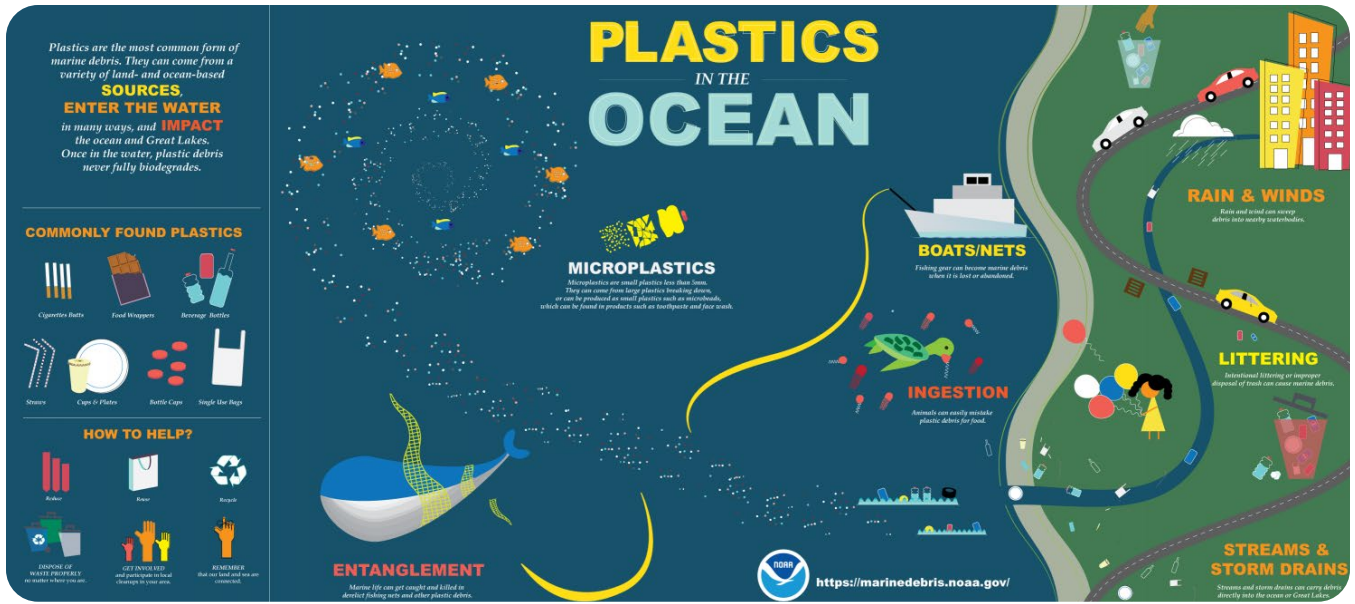
youtu.be/npHUp_oQ-08

Trash that has not been properly recycled or thrown away is a problem for everyone. Discuss what ideas kids have for making litter and trash less of a problem.





Start with a Book: Bird Buddies Toolkit Litter Walk



PLASTICS IN THE OCEAN

© National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

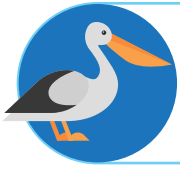
Let's get started!

STEP 1: Head out to a park or hiking trail or just take a walk with a purpose — looking for litter. Bring a trash bag and provide rubber gloves for everyone. If your area has a recycling program, you may want to have a bag specifically to carry items kids collect that can be recycled.

One person in your group (or more if it's a large group), can keep track of the number of pieces and type of trash that is picked up — plastic, paper, metal, and other kinds. Kids can rotate between being collectors and counters. When the walk is over, dispose of the trash and recyclables properly.

STEP 2: After the walk, have kids tally up the pieces of trash from their notes and determine what type of material was the most commonly found. Have them list the top 10 trash items and what materials those items are made from. Compare their list to the items collected during the **OCEAN CONSERVAVS 2019 INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP** (see the next page).





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STEP 3: Ask kids about the items they found: Do you use any of these products? Can you think of any substitutes that could be used?

Have kids create a list of substitutes for the plastic items they found or that were found during the International Coastal Cleanup. They can share it with others to encourage a “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” mindset in their community.



OCEAN CONSERVANCY'S 2019 INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP

© Ocean Conservancy





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More litter clean-up activities

Seabird scientist Dr. Jennifer Lavers shares her poem which explores how plastic pollution is affecting seabirds and the forests they live in. Watch the video and then have kids write their own poetry that expresses their concerns about how humans are impacting birds and wildlife.

ODE TO SEABIRDS (BLUE THE FILM)

vimeo.com/showcase/4987284/video/207595690

GO "PLIRDING" (PICKING UP TRASH WHILE BIRDING)

talkinbirds.com/plirding

