

Litter and Waste Lesson



years
K-2

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM LINKS

- **Science** – Science as a Human Endeavour and Science Inquiry Skills
- **Mathematics** - Create and display artworks to communicate ideas to an audience
- **English** - Creating texts

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Understand what litter is and why it is harmful
- Design a 'litter-free' lunchbox

TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES

1

Teacher-led introduction: What is littering and why is it harmful? Introduce students to littering by discussing the following:

- What is litter?
- What is littering?
- What types of litter are there?
- Where have they seen litter?
- What are the impacts of litter?
- Why do people litter?
- Is it ever okay to litter?
- How can litter be reduced?

Answers may include:

- Litter is rubbish that is not placed in the right place like a bin or in recycling.
- Littering is the act of dropping rubbish on the ground in a public place. Littering is an offence.
- Food wrapping, food containers, plastic bottles, paper, food leftovers, , etc. Here, students can be asked to think of an example for each. Some may argue that an apple core is okay to litter, but it is not. More info [here](#).
- School grounds, streets, footpaths, parks, beaches, in waterways, etc.
- Harms health of people and animals, eyesore, toxic, smells, pollutes waterways, etc.
- Laziness, lack of bins, unaware of consequences, etc.
- Never.
- Always use a bin, use items with less packaging, re-use items, etc.

2

Student activity: How can we reduce litter at school? In this activity, students work out ways to create 'litter-free' lunchboxes.

a) Explain to students that much of the litter at school is made up of food and drink packaging and that litter can be reduced by bringing in food with no packaging – 'nude food.'

b) Ask students to analyse their own lunchboxes or canteen orders OR if it is more appropriate, show students a pre-prepared lunch box of your own. Ask students to brainstorm ways the lunchbox can be made 'litter-free'. Students should also consider healthy eating options in their responses.

Suggestions may include:

- Understand what litter is and why it is harmful
 - Packing 'nude food' that comes in its own packaging such as bananas, mandarins, and apples.
 - Avoiding food packets and buying food in bulk to place in reusable containers
 - Avoiding poppas and using reusable drink bottles
 - Bringing sandwiches in reusable containers rather than using plastic wrap or sandwich bags
 - Avoiding single use cutlery and bringing a reusable fork/spoon
 - If canteen food comes in plastic containers, then reusable bowls or plates could be used instead
- c) Ask students to show the re-designed lunchbox by drawing a new 'litter-free' one (this may be more appropriate for Kinder / Year 1) or by writing a paragraph to compare the old and new lunchboxes (Year 2).



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