

Activity sheet 1

How to Organise a Litter Survey

1. Decide where you want to carry out your survey –are you going to look at litter outside the school grounds or just inside? Also decide if you are going to do a litter pick at the same time or after the survey (see Activity sheet 2)

2. Get a map or plan of the area you want to survey. Decide how the areas are to be split up so that you can work in pairs or small groups to survey an area each. Mark the different areas on the map.

3. Design your survey sheet (example overleaf). You will have to discuss what you are trying to find out from your survey as this will affect the information you will need on your sheet.

e.g. If you want to find out if crisp packets are a bigger problem than sweet papers then you will need to count them separately on your sheet.

e.g. If you think that a lot of litter is coming from outside the school you will need to choose categories of litter that will distinguish between pupil litter and outside(adult) litter.

4. For the survey itself you will need:

- Pairs of children or small groups to work together
- 1 Clipboard and pencil per group
- Map indicating the area to be surveyed
- Survey recording sheet
- Coloured pencils for marking on position of bins and litter hotspots
- Make sure you record the time and place on your survey sheet

5. Doing the survey

Walk around the area recording each item on the tally sheet. When you have finished recording each item you can give each area a 'grade' from A for absolutely free of litter to D for disgusting. Record on your sheet how many bins there are and mark them on your map to show their position. If there is a problem with the bins such as it is overflowing or the wind is blowing litter out because the bin is open topped then this can be noted on the survey record sheet.

If there are areas where a lot of litter collects these are called litter hotspots- these can also be marked on the map in a different colour or using a different symbol.

6. Survey Results

When you have totalled up your tallies for each area and each type of litter you can present the results in the form of tables, graph and charts. Use the information to decide what action you are going to take. You may also want to present your results to the rest of the school through notice boards and assemblies and to other members of the community through newsletters and library displays.

Litter Survey Results

Group _____

Names _____

Survey Area _____

Number of bins		
Grade A/B/C/D A Absolutely Clean B Bitty C Crummy D Disgusting		
Type of Litter	Tally	Total
Sweetie Wrappers/crisp packets		
Cans, cartons, straws, plastic bottles		
Chewing gum		
Fruit (skins/cores)		
Other		
Fast food packaging		
Cigarettes, matches etc.		
Glass bottles/broken glass		
Dog Poo		
Carrier Bags		
Other		
Comments		