

Litter Bingo

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1st - 5th grade

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Litter Bingo

Teacher Lesson Plan

Grades 1 - 5
Time: 30 minutes - 1 hour



Overview

Waste is generated at an increasing rate every year. On average, one person living in America (that includes us!) makes about 4.5 pounds of waste each day. Sadly, much of our waste is ending up in our environment whether or not it could be recycled or composted.

In this lesson, students will explore the kinds of litter can be found around their neighborhoods, and learn what bin those items belong in. We can all help reduce negative environmental impacts by putting waste in its proper place.

★ Purpose & Learning Objectives

This activity gives students the opportunity to practice observation skills by noting the different types of litter around their neighborhoods. They will be prompted to reflect on and discuss the 4R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot (Compost). Students will also engage in simple mathematics by calculating what portions, in fractions, of the litter they found could be recycled, composted, or landfilled.

Materials

Students need a notepad and pencil to record the litter they find and answer the reflection questions if they are unable to print the following worksheet. Internet access will be helpful if the student needs assistance sorting items into the correct bins.

Litter Bingo

Teacher Lesson Plan

Standards & Topics Connections

3rd Grade

3-5-ETS1-1
Engineering Design

3.1.6.P Personal and
Community Health

4th Grade

3-5-ETS1-1
Engineering Design

5th Grade

3-5-ETS1-1
Engineering Design

5.1.6.P Personal and
Community Health

Adaptations & Extensions

If students are interested in being entered into a drawing for a prize, they can pick up all of the litter they come across. Be sure students wear gloves while picking up litter and wash their hands afterward. The student must live within the RethinkWaste service area (Burlingame to East Palo Alto) to enter the drawing.

To enter, they should email a picture or screenshot of the litter they collected along with the completed bingo card to tours@rethinkwaste.org. Please include the student's name, the name of their parent or guardian, city, phone number, and email address so we can contact winners!

Litter Bingo

Student Worksheet



Introduction

Our everyday actions can have a big impact on the planet. One of those actions that has a negative impact is littering. When people litter, it gets into our streets and environment. Litter can then make its way into our bays and oceans, where it endangers animals.

Instructions

Go around your neighborhood to see what kinds of litter are on the ground. When you find an item that fits the description on the square, write or draw the item on the line. See the middle square for an example.

You can use the same item to fill in multiple squares, as long as the item correctly fits all of the descriptions. To win bingo, you must fill in all 5 squares in a row, column, or diagonally.

If you are interested in being entered in a drawing for a fabulous prize, pick up all of the litter you come across. Be sure to wear gloves while picking up litter and wash your hands afterward. To enter, email a picture or screenshot of the litter you collected and the completed bingo card to tours@rethinkwaste.org. Please include your name, the name of your parent or guardian, city, phone number, and email address so we can contact winners!

Sorting Resources

If you are having trouble figuring out what bin items belong in, use these resources to figure out the answer. Click on the links below:

WhatBin.com - Recology San Mateo County.

RethinkWaste.org/game - RethinkWaste Interactive Carts Game

Litter Bingo

Student Worksheet



Key Terms

SINGLE-USE	An item that was made to be used only one time before being disposed of.
SOFT PLASTIC	Plastic that easily crumples up into a ball when you squeeze it, such as plastic bags.
HARD PLASTIC	Plastic that stays the same shape when you squeeze it, such as plastic water bottles.
RECYCLABLE ITEMS	Items that can be made into new items through the recycling process.
COMPOSTABLE ITEMS	Items that can break down naturally into nutrient rich soil, which is called compost.
TRASH ITEMS	Items that go straight to the landfill - be careful, because some of these items are too dangerous to put in the regular trash (like batteries!)

Reflection Questions

- 1) Of the total litter that you found, what fraction of it belongs in the trash? What about recycling? What about composting?
- 2) List 2 reasons why it's important to keep litter out of our environment.
- 3) How can you help decrease the amount of litter in your neighborhood?

Litter Bingo

Bingo Card

B

I

N

G

O

Item that belongs in
the trash

Metal that belongs
in the recycling

Single-use item

Hard Plastic

Packaging

Item made from
mixed materials

Soft plastic

Something you can
reuse

Broken item

Item that does not
belong in any of the
three bins

Item made from
recycled material

Paper

Single-use item



cigarette butt

Item that belongs in
the trash

Hard plastic

Item that belongs in
the recycling

Item made from
mixed materials

Black plastic

Packaging

Something you can
reuse

Broken item

Item that does not
belong in any of the
three bins

Soft plastic

Paper

Item that belongs in
the recycling

Litter Bingo

Reflection Activity

Color Your Feelings

Take out your crayons, colored pencils, and markers and get ready to express yourself!

First, think about what feelings you had while doing this lesson. Go ahead and write down all of the different feelings (mad, sad, happy, angry, worried, etc.) on the lines.

Pick a color for each of the feelings that you wrote down. Fill in the box next to the line with each of the different colors.

Color in the heart to show how this lesson made you feel. After you're done show your drawing to someone and tell them about it.

Color & Feelings

<input type="checkbox"/>

