

Trashy Tuesday

Teacher Supplement

Why Litter is Rubbish

1. People Make a LOT of Litter!



51 BILLION
Pieces of Litter
Along US
Roadways

2. Litter is Contagious!



15% OF LITTER
Is the Result of
Existing Litter

3. Litter Travels!
9 MILLION TONS
Of Plastic Litter Enter
Oceans Every Year



4. Litter Hurts!
100 MILLION SEA ANIMALS
Die Each Year from Eating or
Being Trapped in Litter



GRADES of green

Note: These resources can be viewed as a [slideshow](#)

People Make a Lot of Litter

You might only see a few pieces of litter on your street, but scientists found that there are more than 13 thousand pieces of litter for every mile of American roadway. All together, there are about 51 billion pieces of litter on all US roads at any moment. When you count all of the trash in the ocean, there are more pieces of plastic in the seas than there are stars in the galaxy.

Litter is Contagious

When people see others throw trash on the ground, it makes them think it's ok to do it too. When you "Adopt a Spot", you help keep it clean, make less garbage, and teach others not to leave trash on the streets.

Litter Travels

A plastic wrapper dropped in a parking lot doesn't stay there for long. It gets blown to the curb, washed through storm drains, into rivers, and out to sea. Scientists believe there are almost 9 million tons of plastic in the ocean—every year. This is like five grocery bags filled with plastic sitting on every foot of every beach around the world.

Litter Hurts

Trash in our environment hurts our health and animals because it leaves behind chemicals and tiny pieces of plastic. Each year, over 1 million land animals and 100 million sea animals die because they eat or get stuck in pieces of trash. For humans, those chemicals and pieces of plastic can get in our air and water. They can even get into the soil where we grow our food.

Watch These Videos for Inspiration!



**If You See Litter,
Pick it Up!**

[Click here to watch!](#)



**A Lesson on
Littering**

[Click here to watch!](#)