

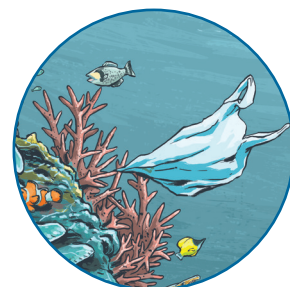
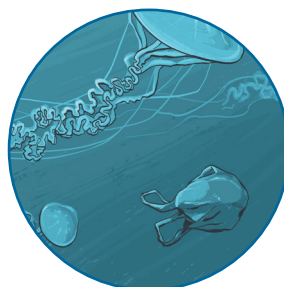
Plastic Litter Pick Investigation

The purpose of this investigation is to find out the quantity of litter found in some parts of your local area. Litter is often blown into hedges or along the edges of paths, bushes or fences.

First, choose and mark out an area where you will investigate the litter content. Measure the area. If more than one person or team is researching, try to keep each section a similar size.

Describe and record the size of your area in metres or square metres.

Next, plan how you will conduct your investigation. Think about: what equipment you will need; what help you will require; what will happen to the litter you collect and how you will keep yourself and others safe.



Finally, conduct your investigation.

Remember to be safe: this investigation should only be done with adult supervision; be sure to wear gloves and use a litter picker; do not touch anything with bare hands; wash your hands afterwards anyway.

Results

Use the table to make a tally of how many separate items of litter you collect. Separate these into plastic or non-plastic.

If you are unsure what an item is made from, check with an adult or make a best guess. If an item contains plastic among mixed materials, include it as 'plastic'.

Type	Tally	Total
Plastic		
Non-Plastic		
Overall Total:		

How many plastic and non-plastic items did you find? Was one larger than the other? If so, by how much?

How much litter did you find in total per metre or square metre?

Total pieces of litter

Search area in m or m²

Average pieces of litter per m or m²

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You can use the average pieces of litter for a fairer comparison between other search areas of different sizes.

What percentage of the litter was plastic?

Pieces of plastic litter		Total pieces of litter	Percentage of litter made up of plastic	
<input type="text"/>	÷	<input type="text"/>	× 100	= <input type="text"/> %

The % of litter found that was made from plastic is particularly bad because plastic is not biodegradable, meaning it will stay around in the environment for up to hundreds of years if not collected.

Evaluation

Based on the litter you found, what solutions do you think could be found to reduce the amount that ends up in our environment?

