

Recycling & Waste Scavenger Hunt!



Learning Component:

Students will learn how litter affects our environment and why we need to avoid littering and keep our communities clean! Help kids understand how litter in St. Louis, via our rivers, still impacts our oceans. Litter can impact our health, communities, water and natural habitats both near and far. A majority of litter that we recover can be recycled!

What you'll need:

- Nearby Park
- Recycling Bin or designated recycling bag
- Trash Can or designated trash bag
- Scale
- Gloves, highly recommended

Getting Started:

Take the students on a mini field trip to your closest neighborhood park! Bring along your recycling bin and trash can to collect items you find littered at the park. Have kids separate and discard their findings into the proper receptacle: recycling vs. trash. Bring along our [Recycling 101 Sheet](#) so you sort your items properly! Download your version in English, Spanish, Arabic, Bosnian or Vietnamese to suite your classroom needs.

Weigh the recyclables to see how much valuable material was diverted from the landfill. Weigh the trash to see how much litter you've saved from harming our environment. If you do not have access to a scale or if you would rather keep a numerical count, that is also a great way to keep track of the litter you pick up. This is also a good alternative if the items you're finding are very lightweight (plastic bags and bottles, for example).

Bonus challenge: Take pictures of what types of litter you have found and try to figure out where it would have come from (e.g. the fast food restaurant or gas station).

For more inspiration, visit these websites:

<http://scavenger-hunt.org/recycling-savenger-hunt/>

<http://inspiredbyfamilymag.com/2014/04/22/recycled-items-savenger-hunt/>