

Litter Detectives Mission!

Hi Daniella and Alisia! Today, we're going on a special mission to become Litter Detectives. We'll use our English, Math, and Science skills to investigate litter and learn how to keep our environment clean and beautiful!

Materials You'll Need:

- Gloves (work or gardening gloves)
- Bags for collecting litter (maybe one for trash, one for recycling?)
- Tongs or litter pickers (optional, but helpful for safety!)
- Notebook or paper
- Pencil or pen
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Chart paper or a large sheet of paper
- A safe outdoor area to explore (like your yard or a park with an adult)

Activity 1: Gearing Up & Science Chat (15 mins)

Before we head out, let's talk science! What is litter usually made of? (Think: plastic bottles, paper wrappers, metal cans, glass jars). Did you know these materials take a LONG time to disappear? A plastic bottle can stick around for hundreds of years! We'll discuss how this trash can hurt plants, animals, and make our world look messy. Also, SAFETY FIRST! Always wear your gloves, never touch anything sharp or yucky-looking, and ask an adult if you're unsure about an item.

Activity 2: The Great Litter Pick-Up! (30-45 mins)

Okay, Litter Detectives, it's time for our mission! Head outside to your chosen safe area. Using your gloves (and pickers if you have them), carefully collect any litter you find. Put it safely into your collection bags. Observe where you find the most litter. Is it near a path? Under a bush?

Activity 3: Sort, Count, and Graph (Math Time!) (30 mins)

Mission complete! Let's see what we found. Carefully empty your bags onto a protected surface (like newspaper). Now, put on your Math hats!

1. **Sort:** Group the litter by material: Plastics, Paper/Cardboard, Metal, Glass, Other.
2. **Count:** Count how many pieces are in each group. Write these numbers down in your notebook.
3. **Graph:** Let's make a bar graph! On your large paper, draw a horizontal line (X-axis) and label it 'Type of Litter'. Draw a vertical line (Y-axis) and label it 'Number of Items Found'. Write the material types along the bottom. Now, draw bars going up to show how many items you found for each type. Use your crayons to make it colorful! Which type of litter did you find the most of?

Activity 4: Powerful Words (English Power!) (20 mins)

Seeing all that litter probably makes you want to tell people to keep our space clean, right? That's called persuasion! Let's use our English skills. In your notebook or on a separate piece of paper, write some powerful sentences or create mini-posters to convince people not to litter. Think of catchy slogans! Examples: "Don't Be a Litterbug!", "Protect Our Planet, Pick Up Trash!", "Keep Our Park Pretty!". Decorate them if you like!

Wrap-up (10 mins)

Great job, Litter Detectives! Today you used Science to understand materials, Math to sort and graph your findings, and English to write persuasive messages. What was the most surprising thing you learned? How can we continue to help keep our environment clean every day? Remember, every little bit helps!