

Foreshore Litter Survey

Site and Follow-up Activity



What can be learned?

This activity is not only good practice in terms of taking responsibility for our environment but is a way of observing the amount of litter scattered along a beach, how this relates to the kind of use the beach has, and what effect this might have on the foreshore ecosystem.

Materials required

You will need garbage bags, gloves and/or tongs.

The activity

In groups of 4-5, collect the rubbish along the foreshore. Each group can be given an area of responsibility; for instance along the water line/lower beach, middle beach, upper beach, dune/vegetation, behind the beach.

Back at school - In an open space, lay out the litter from each area and record what was found on a diagram or table.

Count the total pieces of rubbish found, then figure out what percentage was found in each section of the beach.

Answer the following questions:

Where does most of the litter seem to accumulate? Which section of the foreshore had the least amount of rubbish? Why do you think this is?

What effect might this rubbish have on wildlife?

What other conclusions can be drawn from the results?

What do you think could be done to minimise the amount of rubbish on the foreshore?

Water		
<u>Lower beach</u>	no litter	0%
<u>Middle beach</u>	tissue 1 rope 1 plastic wrapper 2 cigarettes 3	2%
<u>Upper beach</u>	plastic wrapper 46 cigarettes 30 paper 12 bottle tops 2 foam 1 lolly pop sticks 12	33%
<u>Dunes/grass</u>	plastic 9 plastic wrapper 16 bottle tops 8 glass 9 plastic bottle 8 cigarettes 28 beer ring plastic 3 paper 34 foam 1	38%
<u>Behind beach</u>	lighter 3 glass 4 paper 24 cans 7 cork 1 plastic 12 cigarettes 28 hanky 1 plastic wrapper 3	27%