**Fieldwork Studies – Litter Survey**

This activity is used to investigate the volume and type of litter along a path. It does not involve picking up litter but this would be a good follow-on from the data collection, taking sensible precautions to safeguard the group.

What do you need to prepare?

You will need the recording sheets below and a tape measure.

Activity

1. Choose a section of footpath that you would like to investigate. This experiment often works well when the start point is a well-used car park or similar.
2. Lay the tape measure along the path to the maximum length of the tape.
3. Walk along the tape looking left to right and record the type of litter found. The piece of litter does not need to be touching the tape to be recorded as it will often be found blown into the bushes
4. Repeat this using each interval of measurement. For example, record the types of litter seen in the first 5 m, then 5-10m and then 10-15m. This will allow you to compare where most litter is deposited.

Discussion points/ follow up:

* What has been the human impact on this site? Is it positive or negative?
* Did you notice a difference in the type or amount of litter as you moved further along the tape measure?
* Which type of litter is the most damaging? Why?
* What could be done to improve the litter in these areas?

You could choose to plot the results of your survey on a variety of graphs including line charts to show the distance of the litter from the starting point or a pie chart to illustrate the types of litter found.

Location area: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Distance from start: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of litter** | **Tally** | **Comments** |
| **Paper** |  |  |
| **Plastic bottles** |  |  |
| **Cans or tins** |  |  |
| **Food** |  |  |
| **Sweet wrappers** |  |  |
| **Chewing gum** |  |  |
| **Cigarette butts** |  |  |
| **Dog mess** |  |  |
| **Other** |  |  |

Location area: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Distance from start: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of litter** | **Tally** | **Comments** |
| **Paper** |  |  |
| **Plastic bottles** |  |  |
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| **Food** |  |  |
| **Sweet wrappers** |  |  |
| **Chewing gum** |  |  |
| **Cigarette butts** |  |  |
| **Dog mess** |  |  |
| **Other** |  |  |

Location area: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Distance from start: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of litter** | **Tally** | **Comments** |
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| **Dog mess** |  |  |
| **Other** |  |  |