

LITTER PICKUP SONG



Description:

Students reinforce the importance of picking up litter and sorting out recycling with this active song.

Objective:

Participants learn a song to encourage a reduction in littering behavior and improved use of recycling bins.

Standards:

- **SS X.1.2.D** - Investigate ways to be actively engaged to improve family, school, and community.
- **SS X.3.3** - Describe relationships between humans and the physical environment.

Materials:

- Video
- Optional: Copies of Lyrics Page

Background Info:

Below are just a few of the problems caused by litter:

- Litter is unhealthy for humans. It provides breeding areas for germs and can cause injury if people step or fall on it.
- Litter can be very harmful to wildlife, causing injury and even death. Animals get caught in litter, use litter as nesting materials, and sometimes even think that it is food and eat it.
- Litter is ugly.
- Littered areas influence the economy of an area – people don't want to visit or live in areas that are littered.
- Litter frequently makes its way to storm drains and contributes to water pollution.
- Research has shown that one of the strongest contributors to littering is the prevalence of existing litter. When an area is clean, people are much more likely to keep it clean. The opposite is also true. When people see litter on the ground, they may refrain from appropriately placing waste items in a trash can or recycling container.



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Background Info Continued:

In Omaha, there are several options for what we can do with our waste when we dispose of it:

- **Landfill:** Items placed in the garbage will go to our landfill.
- **Curbside & Dropoff Recycling:** Items that are recycled are broken down and then made into something new. In Omaha we can recycle the following: hard plastic containers numbered 1, 2, 3, or 5; paper; cardboard; metal cans; and cartons.
- **Special Recycling:** We can also take some soft plastic bags and wrap to grocery and retail stores participating in the WRAP program for recycling. Glass can be dropped off at one of the glass recycling drop-off sites in Omaha.
- **Hefty® EnergyBag® Program:** Non-recyclable plastics can be put in an orange Hefty® EnergyBag® bag and placed inside your curbside recycling cart. Through this program, these plastics will be converted into energy through a process called pyrolysis.

Activity:

- Watch the video of the *Litter Pickup* song.
- Sing the song with the students several times until they learn it. As you sing, move your hands to point to where the body parts would be on an insect.
- Mix it up! Try singing the song very fast, very quiet, very loud, etc.
- When completing your litter cleanup service projects, sing the song to keep the students energized and engaged.

Assessment:

- Students ability to sing the litter song.
- If you would like an additional assessment, ask students to discuss or write why it is important to pick up litter and/or sort recycling properly.

LITTER PICKUP SONG: LYRIC PAGE

Litter Pickup Song:

Sung to the tune of If You're Happy and You Know It

If you see a piece of litter pick it up.

(action: reach down and pick up litter)

If you see a piece of litter pick it up.

(action: reach down and pick up litter)

We can make the world look better

If we pick up all the litter,

If you see a piece of litter pick it up.

(action: reach down and pick up litter)

If you see something to recycle sort it out.

(action: use your hands to put recycling in the correct bin)

If you see something to recycle sort it out.

(action: use your hands to put recycling in the correct bin)

We can make the world look better

If we sort all the recycling,

If you see something to recycle sort it out.

(action: use your hands to put recycling in the correct bin)

