

Trash Troop: tackling trash together!

Urban Scavenger Hunt

Street Trash Activity

Supplies

Small bucket or bag to put treasures in - 1 per student or team

Gloves - 1 pair per participant

Small clipboard with pencil - 1 per scavenger hunt checklist

Printed copies of the scavenger hunt checklist

Next Generation Science Standards

Practices

- Scientific Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence
- Planning and Carrying Out Investigations

Core Ideas

- ESS3.C: Human Impacts on Earth Systems

Crosscutting Concepts

- Cause and Effect
- Influence of Science, Engineering, and Technology on Society and the Natural World

Procedures

Let the kids roam free and find the items on their lists. They can work alone or in teams.

Set a time limit to find items.

Goals

- Make kids aware of the ratio of natural to human-made items in our urban open spaces (and that 100% human-made items should be the baseline).
- Illustrate the typed of human-made items that occur in our urban open spaces
- Encourage exploration and reasoning

Discussion questions

What types of natural and human-made items did they find? What was most common?

Where do they think human-made items came from/how did they get in the open space?

What colors don't seem to appear in nature?

What did you find that was recyclable?



Urban nature canyon scavenger hunt

- Green leaf
- Something compostable
- White rock
- Seed pod
- Bottle cap
- Wrapper
- Something with a rough edge
- Something red
- Flower
- Something scented
- Something black
- Red rock
- Cigarette butt
- Something recyclable
- Something man-made & green
- Something natural & blue
- Something silver
- Something opaque
- Something clear
- Something not recyclable

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