What a lot of litter assembly

KS2 & KS3

This interactive talk is designed to raise awareness of litter. It covers the environmental and social problems of litter as well as the legal and financial aspects.

Objectives:

By the end of the session, students should be:

- inspired to not drop litter and to keep their school and local area cleaner
- able to describe what litter is
- able to describe what environmental, financial, and social problems litter causes

Lesson plan/Script: (Words should be adapted to fit the right age groups and altered to fit your school's focus)

Slide 1 - Introduction

Slide 2 - What is litter? (Take answers) Definition in the dictionary - “Waste caused by humans, in the wrong place”. Small as sweet wrapper, large as a bag of rubbish.

Slide 3 - Litter and the law

It is illegal to drop litter, you can be fined an £80 on the spot fine or up to £2500.

Slide 4 - Litter costs

It's not just fines we have to worry about, we are already paying for clearing up litter in our council tax. It costs £780 million to clean up the litter in England.

Slide 5 - Why do people drop litter? (Take answers and go through excuses on slide)

Excuses, plenty of bins around the place - it just laziness. The most frequent litterer is people in cars, most common item of litter is sweet wrappers.

National Curriculum Links:

Science - Life processes and living things (KS2)
The environment, Earth and universe (KS3)
Citizenship - Preparing to play an active role as citizens (KS2)
Geography - Environmental change and sustainable development (KS2, KS3)

Resources:

- Copy of the litter assembly powerpoint
- Props such as a piece of rubbish - plastic bottle a banana skin (optional)
Slide 6 and 7 - What problems does litter cause? (Take answers.)

It makes the place look messy- once there is a bit of litter it tends to attract more and then gets really messy.

Animals can be hurt- animals can get stuck inside rubbish, eg. A mouse in a coke can. They can digest materials are not good for them (like swans eating plastic bag as pictured) and they can get strangled by rubbish (use example of the plastic rings around 4 cans or plastic ring on the top of a drinks bottle.

It encourages rats and pests- rats are always around but if you have large amounts of rubbish near your home or school this can encourage rats to live nearer to you and they spread some horrible diseases.

It can spread diseases- its not just rats that spread disease. Dog poo carries a disease called Toxoplasmosis which can cause blindness and especially affects unborn babies, young children and elderly people. If you are a dog owner make sure you are responsible and pick your dog’s mess up!

Slide 8 Who should clean it up?

Buckinghamshire has lots of council workers helping to keep the streets clean either by broom or using mechanical sweepers. However, it cost the councils lots of money every year so if you didn’t drop it in the first place…

You could even get involved in a clean up day with your school to help Buckinghamshire be cleaner and greener!

Slide 9 Conclusion- and songs (optional)

(Litter bugs sang to the tune of Frère Jacques)

Follow up sessions and weblinks

You may like to hold a litter pick day in your local area. We can provide litter pickers and your district council recycling officer may be able to help with the collection of any rubbish you pick up.

See keep Britain tidy for details of how to hold a clean up day

For facts about litter see http://kb.keepbritaintidy.org/litterv5/