

Teaching Notes



PUT LITTER IN ITS PLACE

The nationwide anti-littering
school project

LINKS

Materials and Concept of Education for Sustainable Development:

www.bne-portal.de

The Federal Consortium for Nature and Environment Education, e.V. (ANU)

www.umweltbildung.de

Independent Institute for Environmental Issues, e.V.

www.ufu.de

“Young Reporters for the Environment” Competition“

www.junge-reporter.org

Website of the Federal Environment Agency with Facts about Waste Management

www.umweltbundesamt.de/abfallwirtschaft

Website of the Federal Environment Agency with Facts about Waste Management

www.bmu.de/themen/wasser-abfall-boden-abfallwirtschaft/

ABOUT US

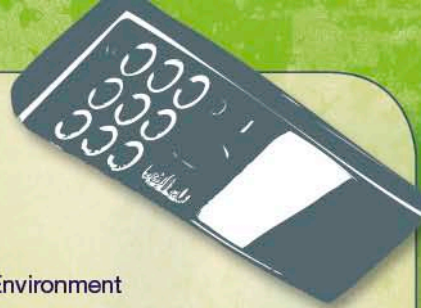
“Put litter in its place! – the nationwide anti-littering school project”, initiated by the Association of the German Confectionary Industry, e.V. (BDSI), Chewing Gum Working Group, published by the Zeitbild Verlag und Agentur für Kommunikation GmbH

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DEAR TEACHERS

The “Put litter in its place!” nationwide school project has the goal of sensitizing secondary school students across Germany to their littering behavior, to show them the consequences of their trash disposal practices and to strengthen their sense of responsibility for an intact environment.

In order to achieve these goals, the “Put litter in its place!” project offers a variety of materials and activities: six worksheets are suitable for use in specific subject courses along with activities within the scope of theme days or project groups (pgs. 4-5).

The students can continue to develop the results of the worksheets and submit them as a contribution to the “Young Reporters for the Environment” competition (pg. 8).

The Federal Consortium for Nature and Environment Education, e.V. (ANU) would be happy to support you with the development and implementation of competition ideas. The local environmental education centers and environmental education providers of ANU can provide you with information for student groups working on the topic of sustainable development and environmental issues.

Moreover, the “Put litter in its place!” program is the subject of a research project of the Educational Science Future Studies of the Free University of Berlin. Under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Gerhard de Haan, Chairman of the National Committee for the UN Decade of “Education for Sustainable Development,” this research project will study to what extent the “Put litter in its place!” project can effectively influence the awareness and behavior of students. Your opinion as teachers is thus of great importance to us!

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THE WORKSHEETS

CONTENTS AND EDUCATIONAL GOALS

1) I've had enough!

Low-waste nutrition and packaging

The students will organize a "trash breakfast" together. This will teach the students about what kind of packaging types and amounts are used and discarded during their daily meals. As a next step, they can develop ideas on how to limit or avoid the amount of such packaging. The worksheet serves as a personal approach to the topic. On the worksheet the students will develop their preliminary answers and ideas, which they will then put into concrete terms with the help of the tasks in the following worksheets.



2) Check your way to school!

Littering and trash receptacles around the school

This worksheet will encourage your students to research the types of trash, litter amounts, and trash receptacles along the path they take to school each morning. The worksheet's task will help the students by clarifying the connection between their actions and the consequences of such actions. Your school is used as an exemplary part of the environment that the students can attempt to improve by proactively altering their own behavior.



3) Your trash is my work!

The disposal pathways of everyday items

This worksheet playfully informs the students about the various recycling processes and possibilities of everyday disposable objects. The students can hereby learn about the value of the individual materials and are motivated to think about how everyday objects in their lives can be re-used.



4) Pure nature?

How nature processes plastics

By conducting a compost experiment (see www.zeitbild.de/abfall), your students will examine how different trash objects are decomposed by nature. The students will hereby become acquainted with the risk potentials that different plastic materials have for the environment. The final work assignment asks the students to find alternatives to the use of plastic in their everyday lives.

5) ...and Action!

Trash and littering behaviors in the group

This worksheet instructs your students to write a screenplay for a film or a photo-story regarding their littering behaviors and trash practices. By dealing with this topic using these types of media, your students can learn how to identify and describe a conflict related to littering from their everyday lives and how to develop workable solutions to such problems. The form of role-play allows the students to take on and articulate different positions in the conflict.



6) Advertise - text - inform

Creativity and communication in dealing with trash and littering

This worksheet asks students to research various anti-littering campaigns either online or in local media. The worksheet prompts the students to analyze and appraise the materials they collect. With these campaigns as a motivation and starting place, the students will now develop their own anti-littering slogans and campaigns. The students will thereby train the reflected use of the internet as a medium for acquiring information. Furthermore, they will be sensitized to the psychological mechanisms of advertising and marketing.



THE RESEARCH PROJECT EVALUATION FORMS FOR TEACHING STAFF

Any teaching staff members, who have worked with some or all elements of the "Put litter in its place" school project, are called upon to participate in the research project of the Free University of Berlin.

The Survey Forms

The feedback form is included in the project materials, but it can also be filled out online at www.zeitbild.de/abfall.

The survey asks the teaching staff for their opinion: how would you characterize your students' perception of trash and littering before and after participation in the project? How did the material contribute to improving the students' littering behavior?

The Raffle

Teaching staff members who participate in the "Put litter in its place" project evaluation before November 30, 2013 have the opportunity to win one of 100 book gift certificates with a value of 15 euros. Your prompt replies significantly increase your chances of winning: the first 50 responses are guaranteed to be rewarded with one of the gift certificates; the other 50 gift certificates will be raffled off amongst all other raffle participants who submit their survey forms by November 30.

The Evaluation

All survey forms will be scientifically and anonymously evaluated by Prof. Dr. Gerhard de Haan, Head of the Educational Science Institute of Future Studies of the Free University of Berlin, and his team. The results will be used to improve the project materials.

THE RESEARCH PROJECT STUDENT SURVEY



Students are also requested to evaluate the educational value of the "Put litter in its place" project. The responses will supplement the teaching staff's evaluation forms and will be used as part of the research project of the Free University of Berlin.

The Survey

In cooperation with the Institute of Future Studies (Free University of Berlin), the Zeitbild Publishing House has developed a survey that allows students to evaluate how successfully they learned and digested the project materials. The link to the survey can be found at www.zeitbild.de/abfall. Teaching staff members can make their students aware of this survey and can also incorporate the survey into a lesson plan.

The Raffle

Students who participate in the online survey by November 30, 2013 have a chance of winning one of 10 mp3 players with a value of 50 euros. Remember: submitting your survey early is worth it! The first five mp3 players will be given to the students who are the first to submit their surveys (multiple submissions not accepted).

The Evaluation

The student survey responses will also be evaluated scientifically and anonymously by a team of experts under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Gerhard de Haan. The results of this survey as well as the teaching staff's responses will serve as the basis of a report that will give recommendations regarding how to improve teaching materials that deal with education for sustainable development.

THE COMPETITION YOUNG REPORTERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The Young Reports for the Environment (YRE) is an educational project within the worldwide YRE network, which is represented in over 25 countries. The competition is for students in the 6th to 12th grades and starts each year in November. In Germany the competition is conducted by the Independent Institute for Environmental Issues (UfU).

Participate

1. Either independently or in groups, a YRE project should examine a local environmental problem, e.g., illegal waste sites, water contamination.
2. The project should recommend solutions for dealing with the environmental problem
3. The project should create a journalistic production (article, photo, video) and publish this either directly on the YRE portal at www.junge-reporter.org or by sending it by mail to Zeitbild (c/o JRU, Kaiserdamm 20, 14057 Berlin).

The Prizes

In April 2014 a national jury with representatives from journalism, academia, and from the UfU will select the winners of the competition. There are great prizes to win, such as a tablet PC, recording equipment and cameras. The winners of the national reporter competition will automatically qualify for the international competition. Detailed information and the terms and conditions of participation can be found at www.junge-reporter.org.

THE EDUCATION GIFT CERTIFICATES APPLY FOR DISCOUNTED CONSULTING PROGRAMS

The Environmental Centers of the Federal Consortium for Nature and Environment Education, e.V. (ANU)

Experts for environmental education can be found at the local environmental centers of ANU, who would be happy to help you and your students implement ideas related to the topic of trash and littering. In collaboration with you, the ANU consultants can specifically help develop:

- programs for half-day or full-day projects and field trips,
- programs for full-day school lessons and
- continued education for teachers.

Discounted Consulting

Within the scope of the "Put litter in its place" school project, you can acquire one of 25 gift certificates for a free or discounted service from the ANU environmental centers (does not include continued education for teachers). If you are interested in this offer, please apply directly with a participating education center.

Your On-Site Partner

Here's how you can find a participating ANU center near you:

1. online at www.umweltbildung.de/abfallprojekt
2. by contacting the ANU Project Headquarters, which can be reached by telephone at **+49 (0) 69-71 67 33 29-41** or by email: abfallprojekt@anu.de.

You can find additional information online at:
www.umweltbildung.de/abfallprojekt.

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

USE OF TERMS *

German recycling and waste law refers to litter as “tangible items, which its owner is disposing of, wishes to dispose of, or has already disposed of.” Thus, litter could also include things that can still be used, e.g., an old chair, or unusable things (e.g., a broken lamp).

POSSIBILITIES FOR RECYCLING *

The proportion of recyclable materials that make up household waste is rather high at 81%. However, this number is unfortunately only a theoretical value – more than half of all recyclable material is simply disposed of into general garbage bins.

| Material | Recycling Process | Recycled Product |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Organic waste | Composting | Compost |
| Paper/cardboard | Paper recycling | Recycled paper and cardboard |
| Glass | Glass recycling | Bottles, glasses |
| Plastic / compound material | Mechanical and raw material recycling | Plastics, oils, etc. |
| Metal | Steel industry | Steel |
| Textiles | Re-use, re-utilization | Rags, insulation, cardboard |

The primary goal is to ensure that all valuable materials are properly sent to be recycled. As a society at large, we are still far away from achieving this goal.



*see: Program Transfer 21. Education for Sustainable Development

LITTERING - A SOCIAL PROBLEM **

Littering is defined as the throwing away of waste and trash in public spaces. The highest component of litter is food and drink packaging that is acquired by people while they are on-the-go. Littering costs society millions each year and also causes an undue amount of stress.

The problem of littering is not a new topic: in the field of international research, for example, there have now been almost four decades of research on the topic. However, the magnitude of littering is still somewhat new in Germany and in Europe. A variety of societal developments are the cause of this, such as the increase of mobility and to-go consumption culture. Furthermore, there is an increase of free-time activities spent outdoors, especially in recreational areas (parks, lakes, etc.) and in city squares.

However, littering is not simply a problem related to trash, because there are actually more than a sufficient number of garbage receptacles in public places. The fact that litter is not placed where it belongs is primarily a social problem.

Littering is caused by society as a whole and is often simply one symptom of extensive problems of public areas, such as noise pollution, graffiti, or vandalism. Depending on the specific location, littering has a reciprocal effect with these problems: e.g., if litter is not cleaned up quickly, the area affected area will be avoided. Therefore, a holistic approach is necessary to deal with littering in order to effectively and sustainably solve the problem.



**see: Littering Handbook. A practical guide to the development of anti-littering measures.

