

Beach Sweepers
Keeping Debris Out of the Sea
Field Investigation Notebook







Name: _____

Date: _____

Teacher: _____

Field Trip Guidelines:

-  Please remain with your group and out of the street.**
-  Use work gloves or grabbers to pick up trash.**
-  Do not handle sharp objects.
Contact an adult to dispose sharp objects (i.e. needles, broken glass) in a designated container.**
-  To avoid breaking glass:
Please don't swing trash collection bags over your shoulder or drop bags onto the ground.**

What is Marine Debris?

Marine Debris is any man-made object discarded, disposed of or abandoned that enters the coastal or marine environment.

How does Trash Travel?



Image: Ocean Conservancy

Survey Procedures

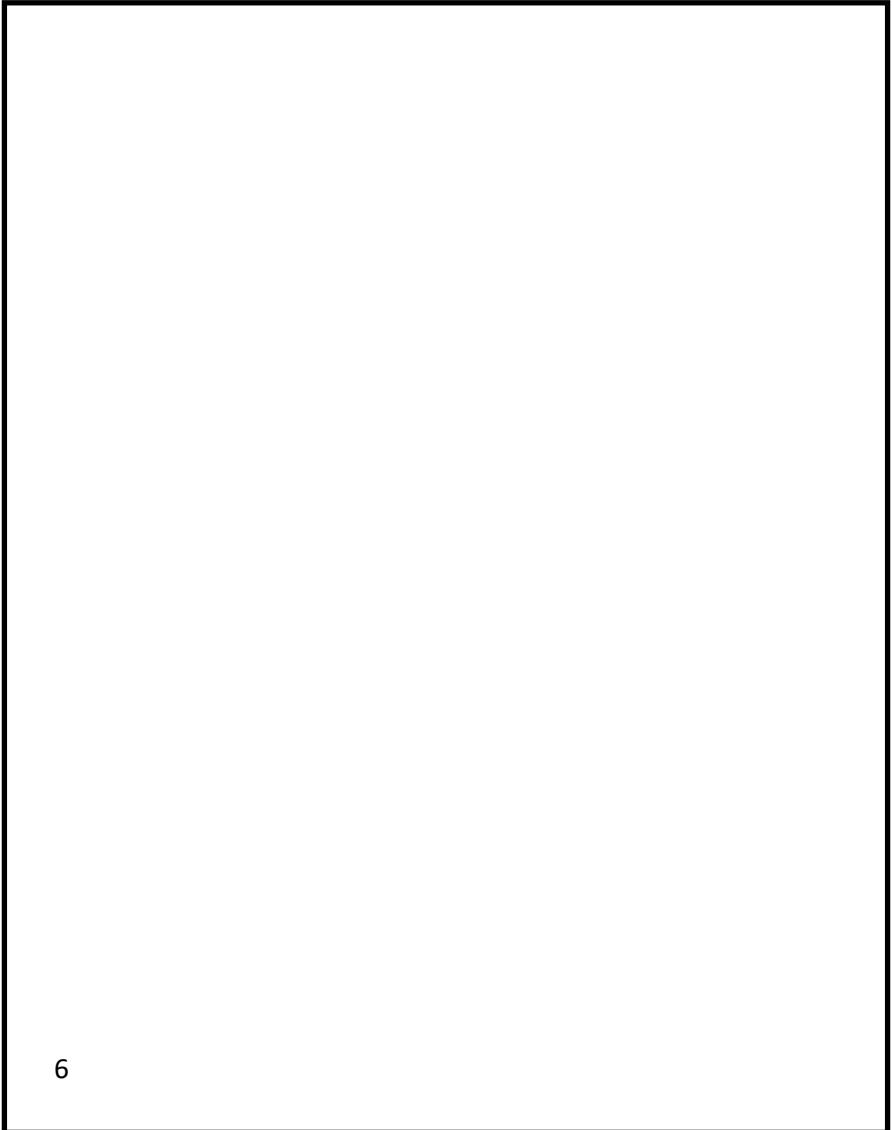
1. Form groups of 3. Each team will need a grabber, gloves, and trash bag
2. Assign 2 people to be “Grabbers” and 1 person to be the “Recorder”
3. Your teacher will direct you to your survey location
4. Map your location (bird’s eye view) and write 2 field study questions in your workbook
5. Begin the Clean-up!
Grabbers – pick up debris and deliver it to the Recorder
Recorder – tally each item onto your Trash Data Form *before* it is placed into the trash bag

Sketch your study site location

Label relevant features (buildings, trash cans, etc.)

Location _____

Partners _____



Field Study Questions

Example: What types of litter are found at this location?

What other questions do you have?

1. _____

2. _____

Trash Data Form

Cigarette Butts _____ =

Food Wrappers _____ =

Food containers (plastic, foam) _____ =

Plastic Beverage Bottles _____ =

Glass Beverage Bottles _____ =

Beverage Cans _____ =

Plastic Bottle Caps _____ =

Metal Bottle Caps _____ =

Straws, Stirrers _____ =

Cups, Lids _____ =

Forks, Spoons, Knives _____ =

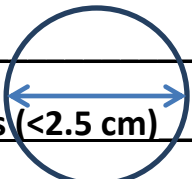
Plastic Grocery Bags _____ =

Other Plastic Bags _____ =

Paper Bags _____ =

Small plastic pieces (<2.5 cm) _____ =

Other _____ =



2020 INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP

By the Numbers

Top Ten Items Recorded

1	Cigarette Butts	964,521
2	Beverage Bottles (plastic)	627,014
3	Food Wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	573,534
4	Other Trash* (Clean Swell)	519,438
5	Bottle Caps (plastic)	409,855
6	Grocery Bags (plastic)	272,399
7	Straws, Stirrers	224,170
8	Take Out/Away Containers (plastic)	222,289
9	Beverage Cans	162,750
10	Beverage Bottles (glass)	146,255

221,589

People

5,229,065

Pounds

2,371,864

Kilograms

49,635

Miles

79,880

Kilometers

8,066,072

Total Items

What were the top 5 items collected at your specific location?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

How are these top 5 similar and different than the International Cleanup data?

Reflections on your debris survey

What is the problem? (Define the problem)

Why is it a problem?

How does marine debris impact marine organisms?

What are some solutions? (Brainstorm in your group)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Take Action! What will you do?

- Bring your own mug or reusable beverage container.
 - Carry a reusable water bottle
 - Carry a reusable shopping bag
 - Opt out of using plastic lids or straws
 - Avoid plastic cutlery by carrying your own reusable utensils
 - Organize your own beach or neighborhood trash cleanup
 - Recycle or dispose of your trash in a trash can
 - Share what you know with others
 - Other ideas! _____
-

How would you know if your actions worked? (How could you “test” your solution?)

Contact Information

Submit data to:

Each team may enter their data onto an Excel spreadsheet and submit to PSI at psi@pacshell.org. PSI will add data to a master spreadsheet and return it to your teacher and the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance (www.pugetsoundkeeper.org).

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*Fostering sustainable shellfish resources &
a healthy marine environment through
research & education.*

