

Classroom Projects

TEACHER'S NOTE: The following lesson plans can be used in any grade by altering the degree of difficulty you assign to the projects. Use what ideas you can from these lesson plans and incorporate your own anti-litter activities, too. Thanks for teaching students how they can make a difference in keeping their state clean and keeping our land grand!

Art Projects

Math Projects

Science Projects

Language Arts/English Projects

Classroom Activities

School/Club Projects

Art Projects:

Trash Art Contest:

Students: Create art out of pieces of litter.

Teachers: Help students collect pieces of litter for their projects and find examples of trash art or sculptures made from items that would be considered trash. Ask them to think of other ways to reduce, recycle or reuse trash.

Decorate local business windows:

Students: Paint windows with pictures or words to encourage people to not litter. Use the *Oklahoma, Keep Our Land Grand* slogan to promote Oklahoma's anti-litter campaign.

Teachers: Ask local businesses to donate supplies and in return your students will decorate their windows. Ask your local chamber of commerce to recommend businesses that might also be interested. Parents of students in your school who own their own businesses might be prospects. Students can also paint the windows of your school or other schools in your district. Make sure displays are positive.

Mural painting/drawing:

Students: Half of the class will draw or paint a landscape mural that is litter-free. The other half of the class will draw or paint a landscape mural that is full of litter. Display murals in your school so other students will notice how beautiful landscape is when it's litter-free.

Teachers: Assist one half of your class in painting a landscape mural that is litter-free; assist the other half of the class in painting a landscape mural full of litter. Display them in your school so the rest of the student body will recognize the difference litter-free can make.

Paper towel tube art carrier:

Students: Bring an empty paper towel tube to school. Decorate the tube with markers, paint, construction paper, etc. Write your name on it so you can take it back and forth between school and home with your papers rolled up in it.

Teachers: The purpose of the tube is to transport the student's papers and art projects rolled up in the tube so the papers aren't damaged. Make sure the students have art supplies to decorate the tubes. This teaches students a practical exercise in reusing products.

Poster Contest:

Students: Design an anti-litter poster to be entered in the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's poster contest. The deadline for the poster contest is usually in late January. For more information, contact ODOT's Beautification Office at 405-521-4037.

Teachers: Help students design anti-litter posters. Enter your students' posters in the poster contest through the Beautification Office. Corporate sponsors donate prize money to the state winners. The poster is printed for distribution to schools, businesses, chambers of commerce, etc.

Advertising Campaign:

Students: Develop and implement an advertising campaign to promote litter prevention in the state of Oklahoma. Some possible components could be radio commercials, TV commercials, slogans, or a character who would help promote your campaign.

Teachers: Assist students in conceptualizing and implementing an advertising campaign. Consider holding a contest for the best campaign.

T-shirt decorating:

Students: Design and decorate T-shirts with an anti-litter theme. Your school could pick one and have it mass-produced or each student could design his or her own.

Teachers: Assist students in designing and decorating T-shirts. Give any necessary guidelines to your students, such as types of materials to use for durability.

Math Projects:

Trash graph:

Students: Collect litter from around your school grounds. Make sure you wear gloves. When you have collected several different types of litter, bring your trash to a designated area. Record the different types of litter you have collected. For example, how many pieces of paper, aluminum, plastic, and other products did you collect? After you have recorded your categories and amounts, make a graph to record chart your findings. What are ways to reduce different categories of trash at school? Remember to throw your litter away when you are finished.

Teachers: First you will need to determine what part of your school grounds has the most litter. Take your students to this area to collect their litter. Supply them with latex gloves or ask them to bring gardening gloves from home. You may want to designate an area outside for them to record what types of litter and the amounts of each type that they found. Then have the students throw the litter away and return to the classroom to graph their findings. Not only is this a good math project, but it also helps clean up your school grounds.

Science Projects:

Research project:

Students: Research how litter affects the environment. Record your findings within guidelines.

Teachers: Help students find materials that will give them adequate information to complete their research projects. Students can use the resources your library provides or research topics on the Internet (from credible sources.) Tell your students how you want them to record their findings.

Science fair with an anti-litter theme:

Students: Remember these science fair projects need to have an anti-litter theme. For example, students can determine the length of time it takes certain pieces of litter to decompose or the effects litter has on the earth.

Teachers: Help students research ideas related to litter. You might also send a letter home to the parents; they might want to be involved and help their children with their projects.

Invent items that help decrease litter:

Students: Invent items to decrease litter. For example, invent items to make it easier for people to dispose of litter, or products that help different types of trash or yard waste decompose.

Teachers: Check out books from your school's library geared to young inventors. Students can research the reasons people litter and invent items to discourage littering.

Plant trees and flowers around school grounds:

Students: Wear clothes that can get dirty and be ready to work in the mud. Clean up an area on your school grounds and then beautify it by planting trees or flowers. You will follow your teacher's instructions about where to plant the trees or flowers.

Teachers: Ask local nurseries or your school administration to donate trees or flowers to your school. When planting trees, seek guidance from experts to ensure the best chance for survival. Remind students to wear clothing that can get dirty. If possible, give them latex or garden gloves to wear while they are planting or ask them to bring them from home.

Discussing litter:

Students: Brainstorm with your classmates and make a list of items you see littered. Discuss the negative effects each type of litter has on the environment. From a positive perspective, give examples of how each item may be reused, recycled, or reduced.

Teachers: Before beginning this lesson discuss with your class how different types of potential litter are reused, recycled, or reduced. Brainstorm with your class and help them construct a list of commonly littered items. Encourage students to think of ways the listed items may be reused, recycled, or reduced.

Making your own habitat garden:

Students: Make your own habitat garden by using a two-liter plastic soda bottle and plastic wrap. Cut the bottle in half and put a small amount of dirt in the bottom of the bottle. Place a small plant into the dirt, along with some pill bugs. Put a piece of plastic wrap on top of the section of the bottle with the plant inside. Now poke small holes through the plastic and reattach the top half of the bottle (you had previously cut off) back onto the lower half of the bottle that is holding the plant. Tape the two halves together. You now have a completed habitat garden.

Teachers: Assist students in constructing their habitat gardens. When they are finished, discuss how they were able to reuse a pop bottle and plastic and help the environment at the same time.

Language Arts/English Projects:

Research paper on the effects litter has on the environment:

Students: Use your school library to find information on the effects litter has on the environment. From this information write a research paper using your teacher's specifications.

Teachers: Help students get familiar with your school library if they are not already. Students may need direction to find the appropriate information for this paper. The litter fact sheet can help with this assignment.

Persuasive essay contest:

Students: Using the information you gathered while writing your research paper, compose a persuasive essay encouraging citizens not to litter. You will enter this essay into a classroom/school contest; make sure you are very persuasive in your writing.

Submit to your local newspaper or student newspaper for possible publication.

Teachers: Contact the local newspaper and the school newspaper and request permission to submit essays. Consider giving extra credit if they are published.

Research new litter facts and produce a new litter facts sheet:

Students: Research litter facts and compile a new litter fact sheet, similar to the one ODOT uses.

Teachers: Show your students the fact sheet ODOT provides. Use it as an example while they are compiling their own fact sheets. Assist students in researching new litter facts relevant to their town or school. After they have a list of litter facts, help them compile their fact sheet. Allow them to present their findings to the rest of the class. Submit well-researched facts with documentation to your school paper.

Reading contest:

Students: Pick books to read from the list your teacher has provided for you. Remember this is a reading contest, so read as many books as you can from the list.

Teachers: Ask your librarian to help you compile a list of books that relate to the effects litter has on the environment and any other environmental books that are educational. Supply your students with this list and encourage them to read as many books as they can in a set period of time. The students who read the most books win prizes of your choice. Give out awards (KOLG promotional items can be used), and post a list of the winners outside your classroom for the rest of the school to see. Consider asking students to present oral book reports on their favorite books. Ask them if they have changed their behavior or attitudes about litter or the environment.

Write a play or skit:

Students: Write a play or a skit to encourage people not to litter or a play or skit that demonstrates the negative effects litter has on Oklahoma.

Write an acrostic and/or poem:

Students: Write an acrostic and/or a poem that relates to litter.

Teachers: Explain acrostics and different types of poems to your students. Help them compose an acrostic or a poem that relates to litter.

Poetry contest:

Students: Write a poem of any kind that relates to litter. Enter your poem in the classroom poetry contest your teacher has set up for you.

Teachers: Help your students determine what type of poem they would like to write. Make sure they use an anti-litter theme. Set up a poetry contest to involve your classroom or school as a whole. Determine an appropriate award for your students.

Journal writing topics:

Students: Write a journal entry on the anti-litter topic that your teacher assigns to you.

Teachers: Assign your students a journal topic with an anti-litter theme.

Classroom Activities:

Teachers: Take pictures of your students and post them on a bulletin board inside/outside your classroom with the headline “We’re Too Cool to Litter.” Children love to have their pictures displayed, so incorporate photos into any of the activities you can during *Green Days*.

Teachers: Encourage students to always throw their litter away. Also encourage them to keep all their areas clean: their desk, classroom, homes, yard, or bedroom. Remind them that all of these areas are a reflection of themselves. They should take pride in these areas and that means keeping them litter-free.

Teachers: Supply your students with latex gloves and send them on a litter scavenger hunt on the school grounds. They will be amazed at the different types of litter they will find.

Teachers: Help students adopt an area to keep clean inside your school or on school grounds. Post a sign that reads, for example, “This Area Is Litter-Free, Thanks To Mrs. Johnson’s 3rd Grade Class.”

Teachers: Encourage your students to carry litter-free lunches to school. Remind them to pack their lunches in items that can be reused or recycled rather than thrown away.

School/Club Projects:

- Stage skits during half-time of sporting events
- Act out skits or make presentations during assemblies
- Decorate schools windows and local businesses (with permission) to promote 'Keep Our Land Grand' anti-litter campaign.
- Plant flowers or trees around school grounds
- Pick up litter around school grounds
- Institute a Door to Door Pledge: Students can go door to door in their neighborhoods, asking people to pledge not to litter by signing a pledge sheet. Students who receive the most signatures win an award. This project would be a great school-wide campaign.
- Join the Adopt-a-Highway program. Students 11 years old and above are eligible. Call 405-521-4037 for details.