

## Details



**Completion Time:** More than a week

**Permission:** Download, Share, and Remix

## Marine Debris

### Overview

Marine debris is primarily human-created trash found floating in the ocean. It can cause serious health problems for animals in a marine ecosystem. Students will gain first hand knowledge about the types of garbage found in the ocean by participating in a waste clean up tally.

### Objective

- Students will collect marine debris or land-based garbage in order to better understand the types of waste that contaminate our ecosystems.
- Students will learn of the dangers of waste in the marine ecosystem.

### Preparation

Read the following journal entries by Maggie Prevenas on the PolarTREC website:

Creature Feature Laysan Albatross

(<http://www.polartrec.com/node/530>)

Marine debris

(<http://www.polartrec.com/node/841>)

### Description

Debris that floats or is easily blown around is more likely to become marine debris. The choices we make effect the environment. Marine debris is trash that is found in or by the sea. It is usually human-created trash. As a rule of thumb, if the item can fly and float it is more likely to enter the ocean and end up on our beaches. The 12 most frequently collected marine debris items as being;

- 1) cigarette butts
- 2) plastic pieces
- 3) foam plastic pieces
- 4) plastic food bags and wrappers
- 5) paper pieces
- 6) glass pieces
- 7) plastic caps and lids

## Materials

- Tally sheet, 1 per student (attached)

- 8) metal beverage cans
- 9) glass beverage bottles
- 10) plastic straws
- 11) plastic beverage bottles
- 12) foamed plastic cups

What you need to do: Spend 30 minutes picking up debris from a beach or park area. Write down the name of the park or area that you collected from. Mark the number of pieces of various garbage on the tally sheet. Have the tally sheet signed by an adult or parent who will verify your time. Return the tally sheet to class by due date!

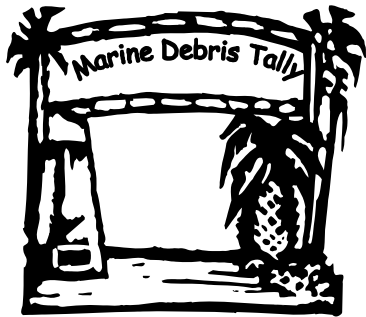
Note: Do not pick up anything that appears sharp or dangerous! If in doubt ask the adults accompanying you whether something is safe to pick up.

**Resources**

N/A

**Credits**

Maggie Prevenas, [prevenas@hawaiiintel.net](mailto:prevenas@hawaiiintel.net)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Area \_\_\_\_\_

Adult \_\_\_\_\_

Debris	Amt #	Class total
cigarette butts		
plastic pieces		
foam plastic pieces		
plastic bags and wrappers		
paper pieces		
glass pieces		
plastic caps and lids		
metal beverage cans		
glass beverage bottles		
plastic straws		
plastic beverage bottles		
foamed plastic cups		
OTHER STUFF		

Pick up beach, park or area for 30 min. Adult signs above. Count debris and write # above.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Area \_\_\_\_\_

Adult \_\_\_\_\_

Debris	Amt #	Class total
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