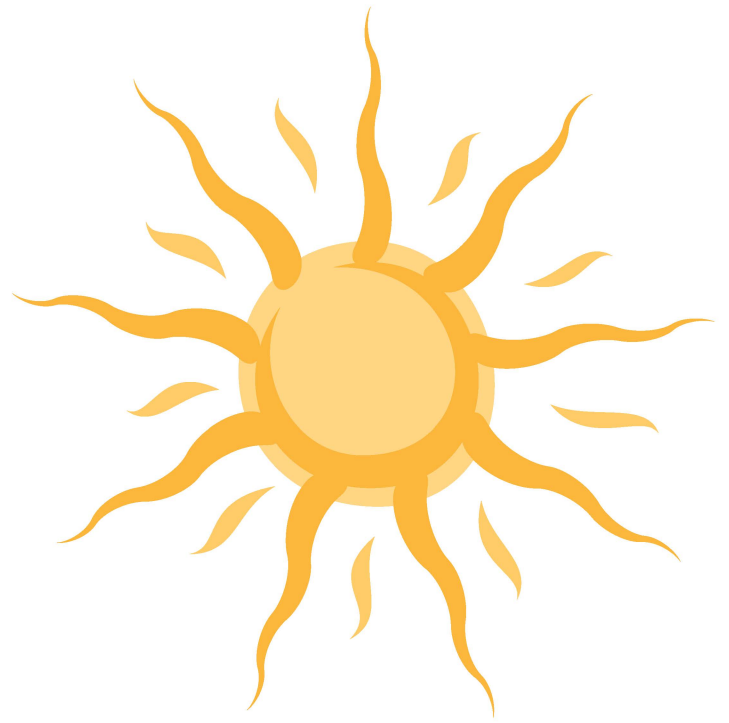


The Educator's Guide to Marine Debris

Southeast and Gulf of Mexico





Activity

CALCULATE MARINE DEBRIS FROM LAND OR SEA

The chart lists marine debris items from the 2007 international clean-ups in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Mississippi as tabulated by the Ocean Conservancy

Some debris comes from the ocean—boaters who litter, coastal communities in other countries, and ships that toss waste overboard. Some debris comes from beach visitors or from people at boat ramps returning after a day's outing. Some is swept along from upriver sources. Still other debris may be the result of storm, run-off, washing debris into drains and then into creeks.

Results from the 2007 Clean Up:

Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina

DEBRIS ITEMS	TOTAL	ESTIMATE % FROM LAND	ESTIMATE % FROM LAND
Bags	87,981		
Balloons	9,417		
Beverage Bottles (Glass)	90,399		
Beverage Bottles (Plastic) Two Liters or Less	92,104		
Beverage Cans	82,395		
Caps/Lids	146,021		
Clothing/Shoes	18,179		
Cups/Plates/Forks/ Knives/Spoons	66,042		
Food Wrappers and Containers	130,579		
Pull Tabs	24,767		
Shotgun Shells/Wadding	4,392		
Six-Pack Holders	5,499		
Straws/Stirrers	62,113		
Toys	10,662		
Bait Containers/Packaging	7,948		
Bleach/Cleaner Bottles	2,661		
Buoys/Floats	4,503		
Crab/Lobster/Fish Traps	1,108		
Crates	916		
Fishing Line	22,390		
Fishing Lures/Light Sticks	5,205		
Fishing Nets	2,049		
Light Bulbs/Tubes	1,583		
Oil/Lube Bottles	2,720		
Pallets	593		
Plastic Sheeting/Tarps	14,616		
Rope	18,573		
Strapping Bands	6,853		
Cigar Tips	51,527		
Cigarette Lighters	7,359		
Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	677,085		
Tobacco Packaging/Wrappers	18,837		
55-Gallon Drums	284		
Appliances (Refrigerators, Washers, Etc.)	770		
Batteries	4,006		
Building Materials	20,827		
Cars/Car Parts	2,764		
Tires	3,132		
Diapers	2,346		
Syringes	598		
Totals	1,711,803		

PURPOSE

To have students assess the sources of marine debris

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- ▶ Use graphing and categorizing skills
- ▶ Identify sources of marine debris

MATERIALS

(for each student or team of students)

- ▶ Copy of "Results for the 2007 Clean Up for Southeast Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico"
- ▶ Pencil
- ▶ Graph paper

PROCEDURE

1. Provide a copy of the "Results" publication to teams of students.
2. Decide the source for the items if from land or sea. Estimate a percentage from land or sea based only on the team's opinion.
3. Identify the top 10 most numerous items on the chart.

CONCLUSION

1. For the top 10 items, do you think they are typically from land or sea?
2. These 10 items comprise what percentage of the total 1.7 million pieces?
3. How do you think these items listed in the chart became marine debris?
4. Plan a campaign to reduce, recycle, or reuse the top 10 items.

Source: Modified from "Turning the Tide on Trash," Special Issue, Post and Courier (Charleston, S.C.), August 29, 2007.



Results from the 2007 Clean Up: Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina

Student Reporting Table

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