

OBJECTIVES:

1. To Define Marine Debris

- Where does it come from?
- What is it made of?
- How does it relate to me?

2. To Explore the Inland to Ocean Concept

- Trash Travels
- Watersheds
- Ocean Currents and Gyres

3. To Understand Impacts of Marine Debris

- On Ecosystems
- On Me and My Community

INTRODUCTION: TRASH TALE

OBJECTIVE: The purpose of this activity is to provide a fun and entertaining introduction to marine debris—what it is and where it comes from.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. This can be completed as a group or in pairs. If working in pairs, have the participants split up the word blanks. There is a shorter tale provided in the online activity bank if time is limited.
2. Have participants provide words to fill in the blanks of the story and then read the group's story aloud or have paired participants read their story to another pair.

TRASH TALE 1: THE JOURNEY OF JUNK

It was a hot summer day. The park was crowded with children, parents and [pet (plural)]. Anna couldn't wait for her favorite afternoon treat. She perked up as the jingling sound of [song title] reached her ears. She ran up to the familiar colorful truck and ordered her favorite, a(n) [food item] with chocolate and sprinkles. It tasted [adjective], just as she expected! Then, she saw the other kids playing [sport] and she wanted to join. She saw an overflowing trash can nearby and quickly tossed her plastic wrapper on top and ran off to play.

That night, it was so windy and rained cats and [animal (plural)]. The plastic wrapper flew from his perch on top of the trash can and was swept away. He traveled down a shallow [color] river until he was suddenly sucked down a narrow hole. SWOOSH!! “[exclamation]!” he said, “It's so dark down here. I can't see a thing. And it smells [adjective]!”. After many [length of time], the plastic wrapper reached the end of the tunnel and tumbled down into a river. He floated on top of the water and meandered his way past [plant (plural)] and [animal (plural)]. Suddenly the water become cold and salty, and the wrapper realized he had reached the ocean!

The sun was hot like [something hot]. The plastic wrapper sank beneath the surface and came face to face with a giant [marine animal]! “[exclamation]!” He floated with the ocean current, minding his own business, when suddenly he felt a tickle! A(n) [marine animal] was trying to eat him! It must think he is a(n) [different marine animal]! The little wrapper tried to [action verb] away but with no luck. Everything went dark.

Oh, if only Anna had taken the little wrapper home. The little plastic wrapper could have been warm and [adjective] back on land. He could have been re-used and made into a(n) [item made of plastic]. Don't let your trash get eaten. Always [good thing for the environment] or [another good thing for the environment]!