



**PLASTIC FREE
MARIANAS**

MARINE DEBRIS SORTING & IDENTIFICATION

Collecting, sorting, and identifying marine debris is a hands-on activity that allows students to become citizen scientists within their community. By analyzing data, students develop awareness, ask questions, and come up with solutions for plastic pollution in the CNMI.

OBJECTIVE

Students will sort marine debris, tally items collected, and evaluate data in order to draw conclusions on common waste sources and make suggestions that can reduce marine debris in our environment.

EQUIPMENT

- International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Data Card(s)
- Trash bag(s)
- Scale(s)
- Gloves
- Drinking water to keep you hydrated
- First Aid Kit for emergencies

PROCEDURE

1. Divide students into groups of 3-5, depending on the number of students in the class.
2. Provide each group with trash bags, gloves, and (1) ICC data card.
3. Start collecting marine debris! Remember to tally each item you've collected on page 2 of the ICC data cards.
4. Using a scale, weigh your team's total collected marine debris.
5. Clean up. Secure trash bags or any loose debris collected and dispose of it properly.

TEAM DISCUSSION

In your groups, discuss and record your answers to the following questions:

1. What are the three most common debris items listed on your data card?
2. Where did the debris come from? Is the source land-based or ocean-based? What indicators did you use to make these assumptions?
3. Identify and describe what effects the debris found might have on marine life?
4. How can individuals, schools, businesses or legislative policy help to mitigate this kind of debris?

CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Send one team member to record your results on a collective table to create a class-wide tally.
2. Share your discussion thoughts and conclusions with the class.
3. What do the collective results reveal about marine debris and what can be done to get rid of it?





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EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

1. Have each team make a bar and pie graph of their data findings. Make another set of graphs for entire class data.
2. Create artwork or come up with other creative ways to reuse the collected debris to showcase environmental issues at school.
3. Write an investigative report or newspaper article on the state of your beach or local environment, based on the findings from your cleanup. Reports and articles can be presented to the school.
4. Organize an in-school cleanup day and get the entire school community involved.
5. Talk with people in the community about the things they have found washed up on the beach. Video or audio record their stories to create an oral history presentation.
6. Investigate how marine debris is traveling around the world and theorize where it might have come from and where it might end up next.
7. Envision a world where there is no single-use plastic. What would daily life look like? How would it be different? Communicate your ideas through words, songs or pictures.
8. Do a classroom, cafeteria or school-wide waste audit and track the amount of plastic waste for one day or even one week!

Discuss the ways in which your school community can reduce single-use plastics on campus. Think outside the box by merging science and math with the arts to find creative ways to share what you've learned and be part of the plastic solution. Put your ideas into action by launching a Plastic Free campaign on campus!

Share your findings on social media and spread the word by tagging

#PlasticFreeMarianas

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PLASTIC FREE MARIANAS, VISIT

WWW.DCRM.GOV.MP

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