

# Conservation

**A very important part of wildlife conservation is the proper disposal of litter.**

Trash poses a very serious threat to wildlife and its future. “Littering,” or the dumping of trash in places other than designated landfills, or not placing trash in the proper receptacles is a large problem. For example, trash that is dumped in our oceans creates a hazard for marine life. Plastic bags closely resemble jellyfish, a scrumptious meal for some marine mammals. However, when the animal swallows the bag, the bag can choke and even them. Dumping trash in the countryside is harmful for wild native animals for the same reason. Most animals feed by smell, not by sight. Trash which has contained food will, of course, smell like food. Some animals will eat the trash mistakenly, and it too can cause extreme sickness or even death.

**Improper disposal of trash can also destroy habitat for animals.**

Imagine if your house was built on top of a landfill. What if you stepped outside, only to cut your foot on a piece of glass? Or if you cut yourself on a rusty nail and got tetanus? Or if you couldn't find a good place to put your bed because your room was filled with trash? Now imagine how an animal feels if its natural habitat is invaded by trash. Not only is litter unattractive, it can pose a serious and dangerous threat to animals.

**Improper disposal of waste can contaminate waterways,  
destroying habitat and drinking water.**

Some companies act irresponsibly with waste material. Dumping chemicals in waterways not only destroys habitat by making the water deadly and poisonous for those that live there, but it can also be deadly for those animals who rely on it for a source of drinking water. Some chemicals, while they may not be poisonous, can alter the pH or composition of the water making it difficult for the animals to live. For example, runoff from fertilized fields can pollute rivers and increase the amount of plant life in a river. Great for the plants, but terrible for the fish who live there. Suddenly, the plants are consuming oxygen that was previously for the fish. Man can help alleviate the pollution problem by acting responsibly. Every day, children can play their part by not littering the roadways and helping adults remember to throw their trash in trash cans. This is especially important at Global Wildlife Center because stray trash from lunches can blow out into the fields or be consumed by animals who live at the visitor center. Recycling reduces the number of landfills needed, and therefore preserves land that can be used for animal habitats. Legislation can be passed to regulate the levels of pollution produced by industries and to ensure proper disposal of waste product in a non-threatening way.

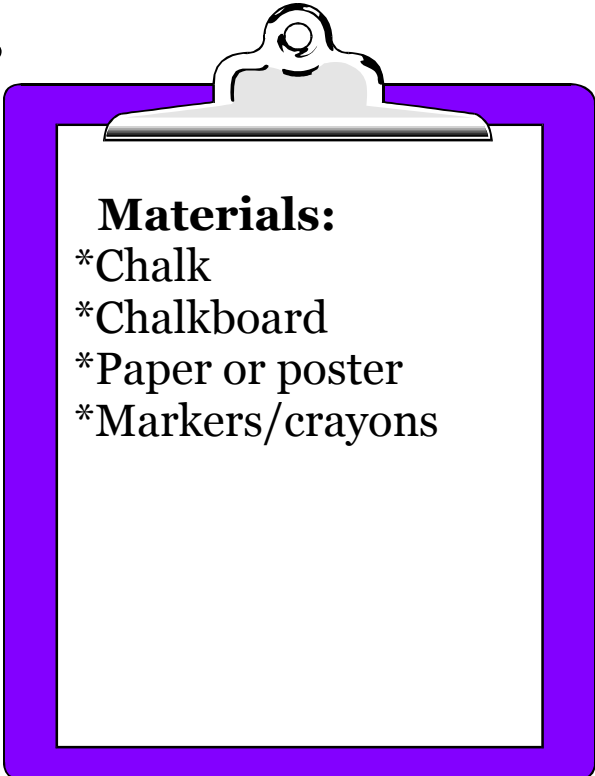
# Every Litter Bit Helps

**Objective:** The students will evaluate the effects of litter and trash on our environment.

**Introduction:**

Litter is a huge problem in our communities, and it is important that the students learn the harmful effects of littering and how to act responsibly and keep our environment clean both for ourselves and animals.

Proper disposal of trash is mandatory at Global Wildlife Center because of the danger trash poses to the animals.



**Activity:**

- Write the word LITTER on the chalkboard, and create a semantic map to spark the student's participation.
- Have the students orally discuss litter and write their responses on the board in a semantic map. See example below.

**LITTER**

*Recycling*

- way people can help
- reduces amount of trash
- cans, metal, paper, and bottles can all be recycled
- buy products made from recycled goods

*People*

- throw things out of cars
- drop trash on ground (candy wrappers)
- throw trash in oceans, lakes
- industries pollute the air

**3.** Ask the students to design anti-littering slogans and the posters in the halls at school, and bring them for Global to display when your class comes for their tour!

*Danger*

- animals can eat trash and makes them sick
- invades animal's habitat
- can cause physical harm
- polluted water can make people & animals sick

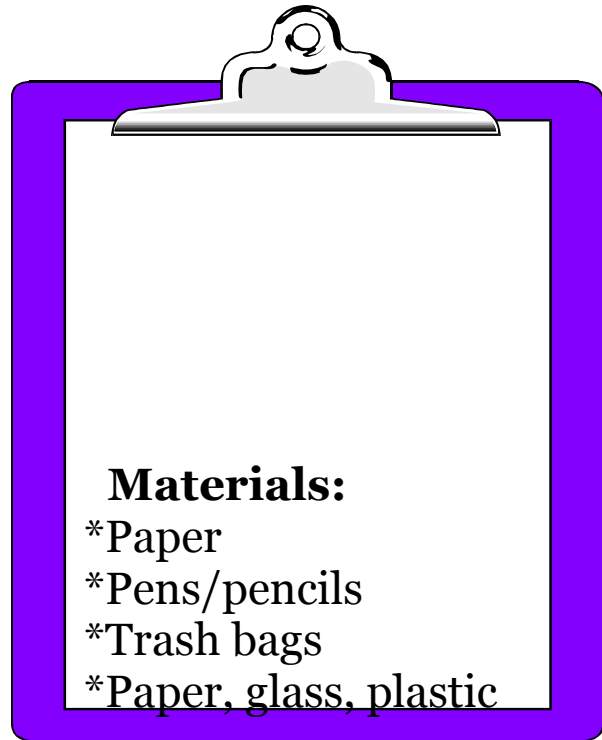
**Closure:**  
 How can trash hurt the animals at Global Wildlife Center? Where would the animals get trash?

# Highways, byways, & garbageways

**Objective:** The students will learn about the problem of trash in our community and notice how widespread it is. The students will explain why trash is harmful to animals at Global.

## **Introduction:**

It is important that students learn how to take care of our environment and its future. Teaching children what they can do to help conserve our environment will show them that every day, they can make a big difference to the future of our world. Recycling and putting litter in its place should be done every day.



## **Activity:**

1. The teacher will spark the children's interest and participation by asking these questions.
  - a. Where do you think garbage goes? (dumps, landfills)
  - b. Where are places you see garbage? (trash cans, dumps, roadsides, ponds, ocean)
  - c. What do you think you should do with garbage (throw it away, recycle it)
  - d. What is a good way to reduce the amount of garbage? (recycling, using recycled products, using products without a lot of packaging).
2. Place the paper, glass, plastic, and aluminum trash on a table or desk. Have the students separate the garbage into their proper recycle groups.
3. Put a sign on each trash bag and give the students trash to look for: Paper, Glass, Plastic, Aluminum, and Non-recyclable trash. Give the bags to five designated students and have everyone walk around the schoolyard looking for the different trash. Have the students put their trash into the right bag.
4. Students will be encouraged to recycle at home. The teacher will research and notify the students of where, locally, they can deposit recyclables. If possible, a fieldtrip will be taken to a recycling plant.
5. On the way to Global Wildlife Center, have the children bring a pencil and paper, or a notebook or journal, and record all the trash they see on the side of the road from the bus or carpool. Have them guess what percentage of the trash could have been recycled.

## **Closure:**

Bring a garbage bag to Global Wildlife Center and ask the children to pick up any trash they see and throw it in the proper place.