



Resource: Resource 17 - Litter Quiz
Text: This resource looks at the issue of litter through a quiz, you can use the fact sheet, powerpoint and internet to find the answers to the questions. It involves technology and literacy skills and considers environmental science.
Suitable for: S1-S2
Curriculum links: SOC 3-08a, LIT 4-13a, LIT 3-06a / LIT 4-06a
Meta-skills: Self management: Focussing, Innovation: Curiosity, Critical thinking and Sense making

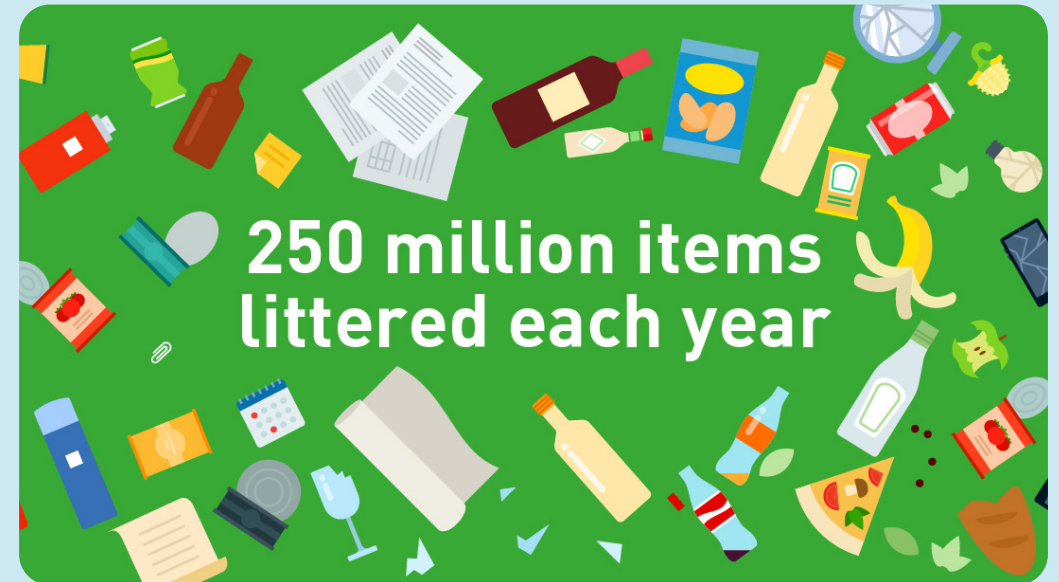
Sustainable Development Goal Links:



Littering facts

Scotland collects
50 Kelpies' worth
of litter every year

x50



250 million items
littered each year

475

items of litter dropped
every minute.

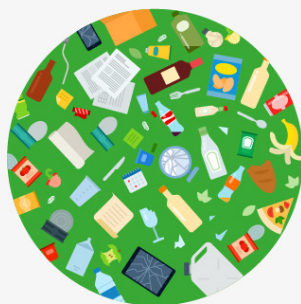


Littering facts

That is equal to:



15,000
tonnes



250 million
items



50 pieces
of litter
per person in Scotland

What's on our streets?

The most commonly littered items in Scotland:



45.1%
Gum
and gum
wrappers



39.4%
Cigarette
butts and
packaging



6.4%
Drinks
containers



4.6%
Food
and food
packaging



4.5%
Other

Source: Composition of litter in Scotland 2016, Keep Scotland Beautiful report.

Littering

- Litter is **rubbish in the wrong place**. That means any rubbish that's not put in a bin or recycling box.
- **Flytipping** is the name given to large amounts of rubbish, usually dumped from a car or van.
- Most litter in Scotland is dropped by **pedestrians**.
- Studies suggest that around **half of all Scots have littered** at least once.
- We collect **50 Kelpies'** worth of litter every year. That's **15,000 tonnes**, or **250 million items** – nearly **50 pieces of litter** for every person in Scotland. Or, in other words, **475 items of litter** dropped every minute.
- **Half our streets contain cigarette litter** - with cigarette butts topping the list.
- Fruit and vegetable remains count as litter too and **a banana peel can survive on the street for up to two years** in Scotland.

- Beaches contain large amounts of litter – in 2018 an average of **559 pieces of litter per 100m** were found on Scotland's beaches.
- **Littered areas attract more litter**, with people more likely to drop litter somewhere that already has a problem.
- As well as being an eyesore, litter affects both our health and the environment. The presence of litter has been shown to make people **feel less safe**, with a greater **fear of crime** and **more health issues** in areas where there is a higher level of litter.
- Cleaning up litter is also expensive and time consuming. In Scotland, we spend more than **£1 million every week cleaning up** litter and fly-tipping and with tourism worth over £4bn a year the consequences are clear.

Why does it matter?

- Local authorities have to spend millions cleaning it up: At least **£46 million each year**, which works out to around **£20.00** per taxpayer.
- This money could be spent on **schools, hospitals, roads** and

other local services. Other negative impacts of litter include:

- It makes **Scotland less attractive** to tourists.
- There's a link between **litter levels and crime rates**.
- It can damage physical health - **injury from broken glass, rusty cans and lit cigarettes**, and litter in the road can cause car accidents.
- It can **affect mental health**.
- It can **negatively impact house prices**.
- Food waste can **attract unwanted wildlife**, such as foxes and rats.

Whose problem is litter?

- It's **everyone's responsibility** to make sure they put their rubbish in a bin or recycling box.

Lots of our litter could be recycled

- **If something can be recycled, it's worth money**. If we collected up all Scotland's litter to be recycled, we could **make around £1.2 million**.

How would you spend that money to help people and wildlife?

Why do people litter?

Here are just some of the excuses people give for littering:

- "The place is already full of litter, so it doesn't matter if I add a bit more"
- "Someone else will clean up after me - that's their job"
- "I can't see a bin so there's nowhere to put my rubbish except on the ground"
- "Litter isn't a big deal, it doesn't harm anyone"
- "I don't care about litter, it doesn't affect me"

Smoking-related litter

Smoking-related items are the most common kind of litter:

- More than **4.5 trillion cigarette butts are dropped around the world each year**.
- Half of Scotland's streets are affected by cigarette litter.
- Cigarette related litter - butts, packets, cellophane wrappers and foil - make up nearly **40% of the littered items in Scotland's streets**.






Secondary Quiz

Now you've learned all about Scotland's litter problem, it's time to test your knowledge with our litter quiz.

Place a tick in the box next to your answer.

1 On average, how many pieces of litter are dropped in Scotland every minute?



A 145

B 475

C 825

2 How much money does Scotland spend cleaning up litter each year?




A £4 million

B £46 million

C £27 million

3 A tonne of litter would fit into how many wheelie bins?




A 4

B 17

C 38

4 What proportion of Scotland's streets are affected by cigarette butt litter?



A Almost 25%

B Around 50%

C Almost 75%

5 Who is responsible for keeping Scotland litter-free?




A Private landowners

B The council

C Everyone

6 How long does chewing gum take to decompose?




A 1 year

B 7 years

C It never decomposes

7 Which one of the following isn't linked to litter?



A Mental health problems

B Road accidents

C Increased rainfall

8 How much would Scotland save if we recycled our litter instead of dropping it?




A £1.2 million

B £1.3 million

C £1.4 million

9 Which type of litter costs most to remove?




A Crisp packets

B Cigarette butts

C Chewing gum

10 How much is the on-the-spot fine for someone caught dropping litter in Scotland?



A £80

B £50

C £120



Secondary Quiz

Now you've learned all about Scotland's litter problem, it's time to test your knowledge with our litter quiz.

Place a tick in the box next to your answer.

Answer sheet

1



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- A 145
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- A £80
- B £50
- C £120



Litter factsheet for secondary school teachers

We've put together a list of useful facts you can use to plan a lesson about litter prevention. It covers all the answers to the questions in our litter quiz.

What is litter?

- Litter is rubbish in the wrong place. That means any rubbish that's not put in a bin or recycling box.
- Flytipping is the name given to large amounts of rubbish, usually dumped from a car or van.

How big is Scotland's litter problem?

Each year, **Scotland's cleaning teams collect 15,000 tonnes of litter.** That's:

- the same weight as **50 individual Kelpies.**
- around **250 million items of litter.**
- enough to fill **570,000 wheelie bins.**
- around **50 pieces of litter for every person in Scotland** (on average).
- **475 items dropped every minute** (on average).

Who drops litter?

- Most litter in Scotland is dropped by pedestrians.
- Studies suggest that around half of all Scots have littered at least once.
- There's no specific profile for litterers as context (where, when and how) plays a big part.

Why do people litter?

Here are just some of the excuses people give for littering:

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- "Someone else will clean up after me – that's their job"
- "I can't see a bin so there's nowhere to put my rubbish except on the ground"
- "Litter isn't a big deal, it doesn't harm anyone"
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Whose problem is litter?

It's everyone's responsibility to make sure they put their rubbish in a bin or recycling box.

Smoking-related litter

Smoking-related items are the most common kind of litter:

- More than **4.5 trillion cigarette butts are dropped around the world each year.**
- Half of Scotland's streets are affected by cigarette litter.
- Cigarette related litter —butts, packets, cellophane wrappers and foil — make up nearly **40%** of the littered items on Scotland's streets.

Gum litter

- It costs **3p to buy a piece of gum**, but **10p to clean up each piece of gum litter.**
- Cleaning gum removal uses expensive equipment and harmful chemicals.

Why does it matter?

Local authorities have to spend millions cleaning it up:

- At least **£46 million each year.**
- Around **£20.00 per taxpayer.**

This money could be spent on schools, hospitals, roads and other local services.

Other negative impacts of litter include:

- It makes Scotland less attractive to tourists.
- There's a link between litter levels and crime rates.
- It can damage physical health – injury from broken glass, rusty cans and lit cigarettes, litter in the road can cause car accidents.
- It can affect mental health.
- It can negatively impact house prices.
- Food waste can attract unwanted wildlife, such as foxes and rats.

How long does litter take to break down?

- **Paper bag** = up to 1 month.
- **Plastic bag** = up to 20 years.
- **Cigarette butts** = up to 12 years.
- **Plastic bottle** = up to 450 years to break into little pieces, never breaks down completely.
- **Glass bottle** = never breaks down.
- **Chewing gum** = never breaks down.

Many people don't realise it but fruit peel is litter. It is:

- **Banana skin** = up to 2 years.
- **Orange peel** = up to 2 years.

What happens if you get caught littering?

- You could get an **£80 fine** straight away.
- If you don't pay, you can be prosecuted and made to pay **up to £2,500.**
- If someone is caught fly-tipping, they can be fined **up to £40,000.**

Lots of our litter could be recycled

If something can be recycled, it's worth money. If we collected up all Scotland's litter to be recycled, we could make around **£1.2 million.** How would you spend that money to help people and wildlife?