



What did we find?

YEAR LEVEL

Years 4 - 6

MATERIALS

Collected marine debris
from clean-up

Extra teachers or parents
for help

KEY WORDS

- Sort
- Data
- Categories

*How do we get useable information from a pile of rubbish?
Collecting rubbish from the beach or river is one way to help
the marine debris issue. Making sense out of it all so that
rubbish can be reduced at the source will eventually mean
less cleaning up to do.*

Orientation:

Ask Ss the question: 'Why do we need to sort all the rubbish out?'
Elicit answers. The main point is to help Ss understand the importance
of finding out what rubbish is on the beach so we can have a greater
chance of making a positive change.

For more information on how to collect and submit data to the online
Australian Marine Debris Database, you can watch the Tangaroa Blue
'How to' videos here: <http://www.tangaroablue.org/resources/how-to-manual.html>

Top 5 items:

Spend some time going over the top 5 items that Ss thought they might find prior to the beach clean-up then let them know that after sorting it all out, they will be able to see if they were correct.

Sorting it out:

Depending on the size of your class, you may need to put Ss in groups. It would also be good if you had extra help from staff, community or parents for this activity. Make sure everyone has gloves. The best way to sort the rubbish out is to find a shady spot outside, protected from the wind, and use a tarp to empty the rubbish onto. Ss then embark on sorting the rubbish into piles and counting items from each category. T will need to either fill in the data sheets for Tangaroa Blue Foundation themselves, or get some of the higher level Ss to do this. Younger Ss will need a lot of help understanding the different categories – use language such as 'How many different coloured plastic bottle tops can you find?'.

Be careful how the rubbish is packed up again at the end to ensure easy disposal. Discuss anything interesting that the class found. Were the top 5 items the same as Ss expected? Send the completed data sheet to Tangaroa Blue Foundation.

Where will the rubbish go now?

Before embarking on sorting the rubbish out, make sure you have a plan of how to dispose of it properly. Ss can help with this planning. If you are unsure, local city council can also help. This may be something Ts may have to do after school hours, or perhaps your school has enough facilities for immediate disposal. Recycle wherever possible.





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Bar graph:

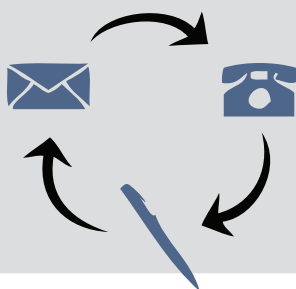
Ss can make a bar graph or wall chart displaying their findings. Create this activity according to Ss level – lower level Ss may use pictures instead of writing for the labelling.

Labelling activity:

Keep a few of the smaller marine debris items so that the students can make a poster with the pieces glued on and label the items.

Picture series:

T can print of some of the pictures that were taken from the clean-up for Ss to make a picture sequence display poster or booklet. Higher level Ss may be able to write a short story.



Share your pictures, findings and ideas on the Tangaroa Blue Foundation website: www.tangaroablue.org

Have a look at what other schools are doing.

Compare the data you found with the data in other areas of Australia.

