



Schools Clean Up Day

Friday before the 1st Sunday in March

Lesson Background

This Lesson Plan has been designed for primary school students and the content can be adapted for students at year level K-6. Thousands of tonnes of rubbish is removed from the Australian environment on Clean Up Australia Day each year. Be part of the solution – organise a Clean Up Day with your class.



Lesson Aims

Students will participate in Schools Clean Up Day. For information on the next Schools Clean Up Day go to www.cleanup.org.au. They will choose a site within the school or local community. They will undertake the necessary event planning activities and collect data on what they find. From this data they will determine some possible sources and solutions to the rubbish problem.

Learning Outcomes - South Australia

As outlined in the State Curriculum:

Mathematics

Measurement

Measurement is a process that students use to explore questions related to personal, family, community and work activities. Measurement provides them with opportunities to make connections with their world and other aspects of mathematics; and with a context to explore mathematics from a variety of cultural, social and work-based perspectives.

Science

Life systems

The structure and characteristics of living things and their functioning are interrelated and interdependent. Organisms grow, reproduce and change over generations.

Society and Environment

Place, space and environment

The emphasis is on understanding the complex interconnections, interactions and interdependence of people and the natural and built environments in local, regional and global settings. An appreciation of spatial concepts and the distinctiveness of places and environments; interpretation and explanation of patterns and processes associated with the natural and built environments; changing perceptions; and the value of embracing ecologically sustainable practices are all important.



Clean Up Day

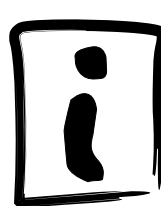


Background Information

Each year thousands of school students across Australia participate in Schools Clean Up Day to create a healthier environment for Australia and learn about ways to conserve our beautiful country.

Clean Up Australia Day started as Clean Up Sydney Harbour Day in 1989 and received an enormous public response with more than 40,000 Sydneysiders donating their time and energy to clean up the harbour. Since then more than 6 million Australians have volunteered their time to help to make a difference to their own local environment.

The idea of a clean up day has ignited an enthusiasm and desire among the community to get involved and make a difference to their local environment themselves. Since 1990, volunteers on Clean Up Australia Day have collected over 210,000 tonnes of rubbish – that's 5 million household wheelie bins!



Sources & Further Information

Clean Up Australia

As part of the schools climate kit, Clean Up Australia has developed a range of other lesson plans with specific waste and recycling content.

To view these resources, please visit

www.cleanup.org.au



Classroom Activities

Students will break into teams to prepare for the clean up event. If the entire school is participating in the day activities can be broken up by classroom or year.

1. Preparation

Two weeks prior to the day allocate groups or classes to the following activities:

- **Have you decided where the clean up will take place?**
Students will need to allocate areas for each class, inform each class of their area and draw the area on a map.
- **What is the state of the clean up area?**
Students should describe the condition of the area prior to the clean up event. They could also determine some goals such as how much rubbish will be collected, what type of rubbish will be collected and what will be the benefits of removing this rubbish from the environment.
- **What materials will be needed?**
Students will need to list what materials will be needed i.e. first aid kit, shade shelters, appropriate footwear, insect repellent, gloves, hats, bags, buckets, sun cream and water and develop a What to Bring? flyer for each class.
- How will the clean up be publicised?
Students will need to draw posters to advertise the event. They may be able to write articles for the school newsletter, send an article to the local newspaper and announce the event at the school assembly.
- How is the rubbish collected going to be disposed of after the clean up?
Students will need to ensure that adequate space in the school's rubbish and recycling bins is available. Where will they take the rubbish after it is collected?

- **How will we measure the clean up event?**

If the school is going to complete Clean Up Australia's Rubbish Survey, contact Clean Up Australia on 1800 282 329. Review the survey and decide what resources will be required to complete it.

- **How about the results?**

A class could set up a tally room to record how much rubbish the school collected. Each class will bring their rubbish to a collection point so that results can be added up. The results could be announced at the school assembly.

2. On Clean Up Day

On the morning of the clean up, check weather conditions and review the following safety information with students:

- Do not pick up any sharp objects.
- Wear gloves when collecting rubbish.
- Stay out of dangerous or protected areas.
- Watch out for wildlife and do not approach any animals.
- Do not lift anything too heavy.
- Ensure you have hats, sun cream and water.
- Students under 14 years of age must be supervised.
- Any other information that will ensure the safety of your students.

3. At the site

Identify an area that each team will cover. Make sure you have adequate supervision for each team. Instruct each team to break up into groups of three children and outline the role of each person in the team:

- Rubbish bag holder.
- Rubbish collector.
- Rubbish collector.

4. Set the boundaries

Set the boundaries of the clean up and inform students of the following:

- Out of bounds areas.
- Set a time for completion and a meeting place.
- Identify a way of telling students when to return e.g. whistle.
- Remind students only to work in their designated area and stay in their group.

5. Rubbish Survey

Back in the classroom count the rubbish collected using the methodology outlined in the *End of Clean Up Report – Rubbish Survey*. This report is in your Clean Up Day kit or available online at www.cleanup.org.au

Please note that only one bag in every five needs to be counted. Analyse the data collected at the site. Individually, in groups or as a class go through all the data surveys. Have students add up the data surveys and total up the results. You may want to organise a BBQ and invite parents along to celebrate the clean up.

6. Clean Up Report

Send the *End of Clean Up Report* incorporating the *Rubbish Survey* to Clean Up Australia so it can be used in the annual *Rubbish Report*.

7. Presentation of Results

Choose a way of presenting the class results i.e. pie charts, line or bar graphs and put together posters to display the results around the classroom.

8. Discussion

After the presentations, conduct a class discussion that touches on the following questions:

- Where did the rubbish come from?
- Do certain rubbish items indicate specific types of activities?
- Has technology played a role in generating waste?
- What are the possible impacts of rubbish on human health?
- How much rubbish collected could be reduced, reused or recycled?
- How can the data collected be used to reduce the amount of rubbish?
- How did it make you feel to see the amount of rubbish before the collection?
- How does it make you feel to see the site clean after the collection?
- How can we prevent the same amount of rubbish in the future?
- Has involvement in this activity changed the way you value the environment?
- Will you make changes to your personal behaviour?

9. Extension Activity

Instruct students to research a schools waste education program and find out;

- Who participates?
- What activities do they do?
- When did the program begin?
- Where does the program operate?
- Why participate?

Open nominations for a class environment captain. Have the captain contact the program organiser and ask for help setting up a school waste management program.

10. Links

Wipe Out Waste

www.wow.sa.gov.au