Pollution in Our Water

Litter Data Exploration

Can you think of a place where you have seen a lot of trash on the ground? I'm sure we all have seen a place near our home or school with litter! We all try to keep our neighborhood clean, but sometimes we end up with trash in our environment. When it rains, the trash we see on the ground makes its way to our creeks and streams. In our area, that means the trash ends up in the Cumberland River! Yuck!

Luckily, we can all make a difference by picking up litter we see in our neighborhood. In these activities, you will participate in a litter scavenger hunt (**Option 1**) and share your results either through a graph or through a story. Or, you can just look at the U.S. roadway litter data we provided and share that through a graph (**Option 2**).

Safety: Be sure you talk to an adult before participating in the scavenger hunt. You will need gloves, a trash bag, the scavenger hunt, and pen to mark off what you find.

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Option 1: Litter Pick-Up Scavenger Hunt

Can you find everything on this list?
Bonus: Keep a count of how many of each item you find to make a graph.

_____Soda Can
_____Plastic Water Bottle
_____Glass Bottle
_____Snack Wrapper
_____Plastic Fork, Knife, or Spoon
_____Fast Food Wrapper or Bag
_____Cigarette
_____Straw

BONUS:
Something that got blown by the wind: _____
Something that fell off a car: _____
Something that has been around a long time: _____
Something very weird!: _____

Tell a story!

What was the most interesting thing you found on your litter pick-up? How do you think it may have ended up as trash? Write a story or draw a picture below to explain how you think it ended up as litter!

Share your photo or story with us! Tag us on social media.

Instagram: **@crcompact**

Twitter: **@the_compact**

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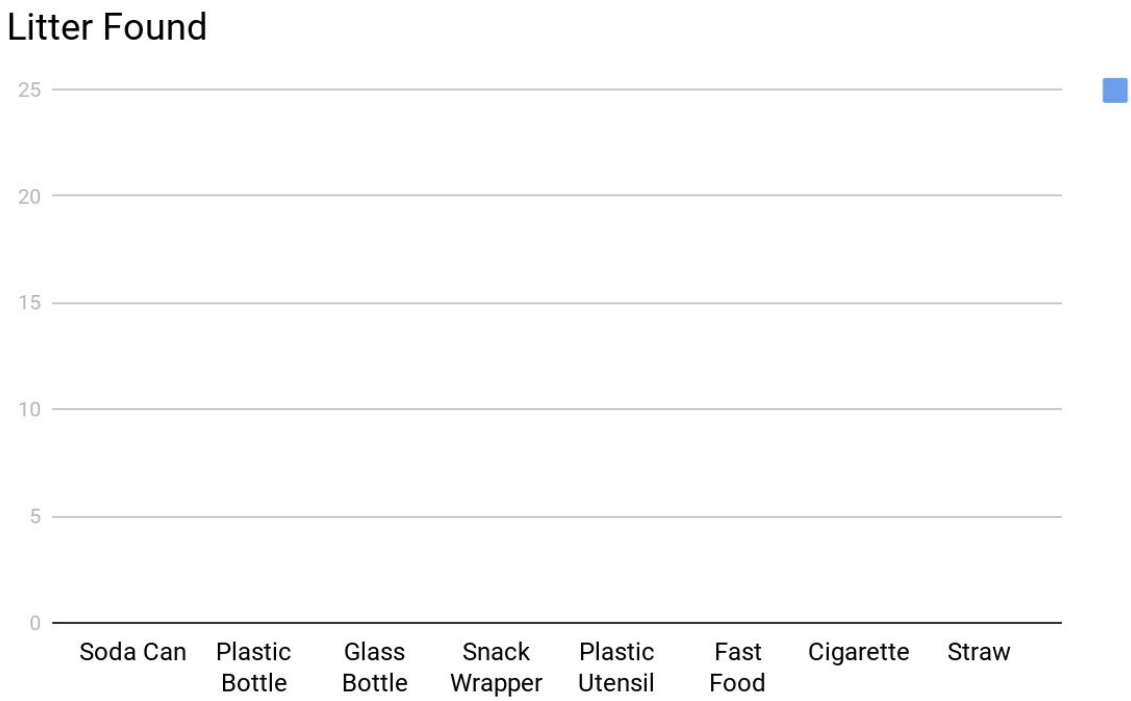
Let’s graph our results!

Create a graph with how many items you found. If you found a lot of litter, you may need to change your y-axis. Don’t forget to label your axes!



Reflection: What did you find most surprising about what you collected?

Share your graph with us! Tag us on social media.

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Option 2: Litter on Roadways

Take a moment to consider what you know about litter. What type of litter do you most commonly see in your area?

What do you expect is the most common type of litter in Tennessee? Why?

According to the Tennessee Department of Transportation. There are upwards of **100 million** pieces of litter on Tennessee's roadways. That's a lot of trash!

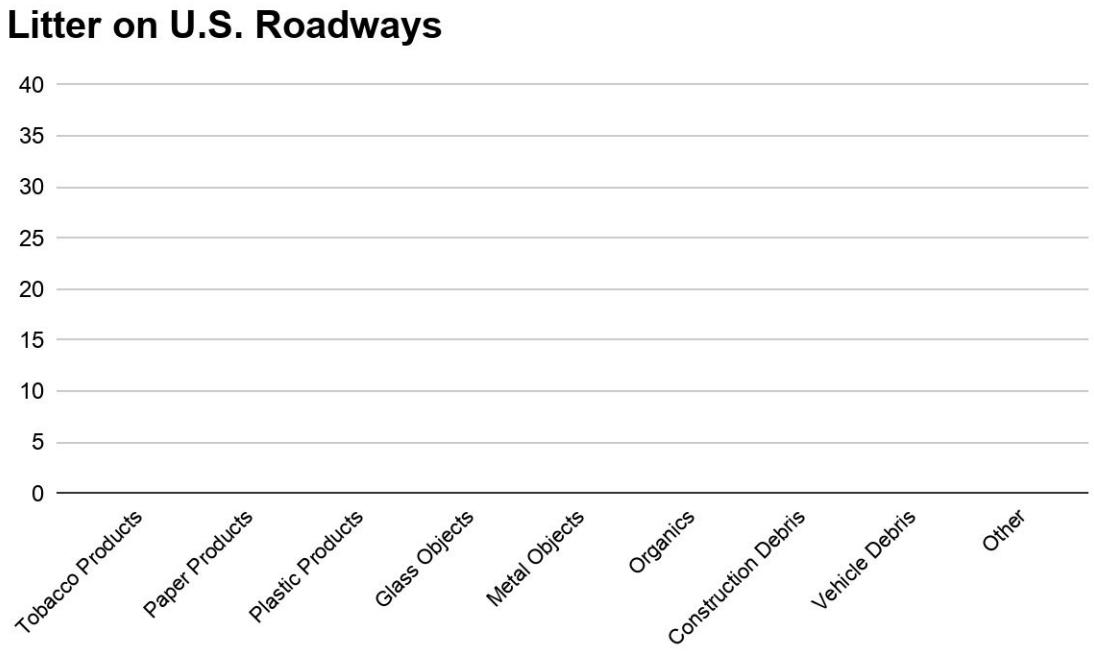
For every 100 pieces of litter on the road in the U.S.*, there are about:

- 38 Tobacco Products (cigarettes, etc.)
- 22 Paper Products (napkins, paper towels, flyers, etc.)
- 19 Plastic Products (water bottles, straws, plastic bags, etc.)
- 4 Glass Objects (bottles, pieces of broken glass, etc.)
- 6 Metal Objects (scrap metal, etc.)
- 4 Organics (food, etc.)
- 3 Pieces of Construction Debris
- 1 Piece of Vehicle Debris
- 3 Other

*This data comes from a study carried out by Keep America Beautiful.

Let’s graph our data!

Create a graph with the data from U.S. roadways. Don’t forget to label your axes!



Reflection: What did you find most surprising about this data?

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