

Human Footprint on Your School Habitat

Talk with a partner, which of these in the list below do you think are good, and which are maybe not so good?

Litter	Car exhaust
Gum on the sidewalk	Plastic bags
Noise from traffic	Lights at night
Grass	Cars
Trees	Gardens
Parking lots	Bicycles

There is evidence that humans have been active all around your school. People dug a hole and built a building, planted grass and trees, poured concrete and all sorts of other things.

Stand with your group members, each looking in a different direction. One at a time, each member tell the others what you see that was put there by people, and what you see that you would say is “natural.” We are going to look at which of these human footprints are good, and which are not good.

Litter is very strong evidence of human activity. We sometimes hardly notice it, but it is very common and it all comes from people whether intentional or not.

Get a bag and some gloves and pick up as much litter as you can. Don't pick up anything too big or that will make your hands dirty. Don't pick up anything that might be a bio-hazard. We are just trying to get an idea of how much litter is around your school.

As you pick up litter, start keeping track of what you are finding. Ask yourself how it got there, what does it say about someone? Could it have been accidental? How?

Answer the following as you work. You can use the back of this paper to write your answers.

- What was the most common type of litter that you found?
- What was the strangest item that you found?
- Approximately how many items of litter did you find?
- Spend a few minutes talking with your group about the litter problem and what can be done about it.

