

In Search of the Lost Trash

GENERAL INFORMATION

Target Audience	Children aged 6 to 12
Recommended Number of Participants	10 participants per instructor
Activity Duration	1 hour
Recommended Season	Any time of year

OBJECTIVE

- Develop teamwork and collaboration skills through a group challenge.
- Enhance spatial orientation and basic map-reading abilities.
- Raise awareness about environmental responsibility and sustainable habits.
- Encourage critical thinking when deciding which bin each item belongs to.
- Promote autonomy and initiative by having students lead their own searches.

SUMMARY

This is a collaborative game in which participants, divided into groups, must fill color-coded recycling bins placed around the school. Using a map, they will search for hidden waste items and place them into the correct containers.





MATERIALS


Waste Items:


- Blue bin: used paper, newspaper, cardboard, cereal box
- Yellow bin: Tetra Pak, yogurt cup, plastic bottle, can
- Green bin: 2 glass jars, 2 glass bottles
- Brown bin: cork, tea bag, banana, egg
- Gray bin: toothbrush, baby bottle, cotton swab, sponge

Maps:

- Blue bin map
- Yellow bin map
- Green bin map
- Brown bin map
- Gray bin map



 **Cardstock:** blue, yellow, green, brown, and gray – used to create small boxes that represent recycling bins

 **Sheets of Paper:** 4 blue, 4 yellow, 4 green, 4 brown, 4 gray – used to place waste items on top to indicate their correct bin

ACTIVITY RATIONALE

Planet Earth is being overwhelmed by the increasing amount of waste generated by humans. However, we can help from our homes by reducing, reusing, and recycling.



By reducing and reusing, we prevent additional waste—like cutting down on plastic use or using reusable bags. And if we learn to properly classify waste based on its material, we can recycle it and help reduce pollution.

In this cooperative activity, students will be divided into 5 groups of about 5 members each. Each group will be responsible for filling one recycling bin. They'll receive a map of the school showing where different waste items are hidden, and they must find them and bring them to their assigned bin.

STEPS TO FOLLOW

Before the activity:

1. Gather the waste items and check that all materials are safe for students
2. Make cardboard boxes from colored cardstock to simulate recycling bins
3. Prepare the school map and decide where to hide each waste item

Activity setup:

1. Place the waste items around the school, each on a colored sheet matching the bin it belongs to

During the activity:

1. Explain the purpose and importance of the activity to the students
2. Divide students into 5 groups and give each group a map
3. Students use their map to find the hidden waste items
4. Once found, they bring each item to its corresponding recycling bin