

16
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This year, instead of giving something up for Lent, Heather decided she would begin something: cleaning her local environment by collecting litter. Throughout Lent, Heather picked up a bag of litter every day. Even since Lent finished, Heather hasn't given up: she continues collecting a bag of litter every week... Read on to discover how you can help Heather clean up our country.

Step 1: BinBag Brigade

First, you need to decide who is going to be involved in your BinBag Brigade. You could limit it to your school's Eco-Committee or allow anyone in the school community to be involved. Your daily litter-pick can be done before, after or during school hours: just make sure you stay safe and supervised.

Step 3: Garbage Plan

First, you need to decide who is going to be a member of your BinBag Brigade. Once you have some enthusiastic recruits, you need to decide on the frequency of the litter-picks: Heather recommends getting the ball rolling with a litter-pick (collecting a bin bag of rubbish) every day for a week, this can then be scaled down to a weekly or monthly activity. Ideally, you will have the correct equipment: a litter-picker, gloves, bin bags and a rubbish bag hoop to complete the litter-picks. If the litter-picks are going to be outside school hours, why not see if your school can set up a loan scheme for their litter-picking equipment? Now, you're ready to go – remember to stay safe and supervised.

Step 2: Refuse Review

Heather recommends checking whether anyone in your school has done a litter-pick before, this will be useful when you are evaluating how successful your campaign has been. You could also ask children in your school to complete a survey to identify areas with lots of litter that the BinBag Brigade can hit.



DAVID
LUKE



Step 4: Waste Work

Heather completed her own science-based project on her A Bag a Day Keeps the Litter Away project. She began by thinking about why she had decided on this action: she had recently found out that plastic was damaging sea life in our oceans and wanted to find out how much dumped litter is plastic. Then Heather predicted what percentage of the litter she picked up would be plastic. She gathered her equipment and began collecting a bag a day making sure to vary her route each day (her dog especially liked this bit as she would take him for walks while collecting litter). When she had completed her litter-picks, she weighed the total amount of litter she had collected and then weighed the plastics collected separately. She presented this information in a bar chart and pie chart before evaluating and concluding her experiment.

Step 5: Talking Trash

When Heather was completing litter-picks, she would always have her high-visibility jacket on (pink being her preferred colour). This not only kept her safe, but had information about her project printed on the back. This meant that anyone who saw her would know about her litter-picking exploits and inspired. Elizabeth also recommends that a school could use their social media accounts to advertise the litter-picks and involve the whole school community.

Step 6: Excess Evaluation

Heather monitored her progress by weighing all the litter she found. At the start of her project she also collected plastics and other forms of litter separately so she could weigh them separately before working out the percentage of litter that was plastic. She then took this data and presented her results in bar and pie charts as part of her experiment.

Step 7: Rubbish Rallying Cry

**Heather says:
A bag a day
keeps the litter
away, what do
you say?**