**Extension Activity**

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| **Extension Activity Title:** Let’s Cleanup! | **Duration:** Multiple periods |
| **Introduction:**  In this activity, students are encouraged to participate in a school or local park cleanup. Students will get the opportunity to remove litter and will be able to make a difference in their community.   * Suitable for grades 2 - 6 | |
| **Materials:** | |
| * Plastic gloves * Garbage bags * Litter pickers if your school has them | |
| **Safety Tips:** | |
| Safety is the highest priority during a school ground or park cleanup:   * Wear appropriate clothing according to the weather * Always wear gloves before touching any waste * Watch for and avoid any hazards, such as broken glass, needles, chemicals, dead animals, direct the area of concern to your teacher * Never enter bodies of water to retrieve items * Do not walk on roadways and watch for cars in the parking lot * Avoid steep hills * Always wash your hands after your clean up | |
| **Activity Set-up** | |
| * Recommend selecting a date for the school or park cleanup that is close to garbage collection day at your school * Check the forecast ahead of time * Have students walk around their school grounds or local park and pick up litter * Have students locate the storm sewers around their school   **Ask:** students if they notice any litter around the storm sewer, is the drain blocked with any material? Would this have any issues for the local environment?  **Answer:** storm sewers, also known as storm drains, are used for rain/snow melt collection so the streets don’t flood. Storm sewers transport rainwater and snowmelt to our rivers and creeks, and eventually to Lake Ontario. This water never goes to our wastewater treatment plant, which means that it does not get cleaned before going back to the lake. Any garbage that goes down into the storm sewer goes straight to the rivers and lake. If the storm sewer is blocked by garbage, it can stop water from entering and cause flooding. | |
| **Activity Wrap-up:** | |
| * Have students gather all bags of garbage for proper disposal (school waste bin, or ask the custodian where they prefer to store the garbage)   **Class discussion:**   * Why is it important that everyone avoids littering in their community? * How can litter impact our water? * If you had an opportunity to tell the community about all of the garbage you found in your school or local park, what your message be? * How would you teach the community that littering is a bad habit? | |