

# Science Projects:

## Research project:

**Students:** Research how litter affects the environment. Record your findings within guidelines.

**Teachers:** Help students find materials that will give them adequate information to complete their research projects. Students can use the resources your library provides or research topics on the Internet (from credible sources.) Tell your students how you want them to record their findings.

## → Science fair with an anti-litter theme:

**Students:** Remember these science fair projects need to have an anti-litter theme. For example, students can determine the length of time it takes certain pieces of litter to decompose or the effects litter has on the earth.

**Teachers:** Help students research ideas related to litter. You might also send a letter home to the parents; they might want to be involved and help their children with their projects.

## Invent items that help decrease litter:

**Students:** Invent items to decrease litter. For example, invent items to make it easier for people to dispose of litter, or products that help different types of trash or yard waste decompose.

**Teachers:** Check out books from your school's library geared to young inventors. Students can research the reasons people litter and invent items to discourage littering.

## Plant trees and flowers around school grounds:

**Students:** Wear clothes that can get dirty and be ready to work in the mud. Clean up an area on your school grounds and then beautify it by planting trees or flowers. You will follow your teacher's instructions about where to plant the trees or flowers.

**Teachers:** Ask local nurseries or your school administration to donate trees or flowers to your school. When planting trees, seek guidance from experts to ensure the best chance for survival. Remind students to wear clothing that can get dirty. If possible, give them latex or garden gloves to wear while they are planting or ask them to bring them from home.

## { Discussing litter:

**Students:** Brainstorm with your classmates and make a list of items you see littered. Discuss the negative effects each type of litter has on the environment. From a positive perspective, give examples of how each item may be reused, recycled, or reduced.

**Teachers:** Before beginning this lesson discuss with your class how different types of potential litter are reused, recycled, or reduced. Brainstorm with your class and help them construct a list of commonly littered items. Encourage students to think of ways the listed items may be reused, recycled, or reduced.

### **Making your own habitat garden:**

**Students:** Make your own habitat garden by using a two-liter plastic soda bottle and plastic wrap. Cut the bottle in half and put a small amount of dirt in the bottom of the bottle. Place a small plant into the dirt, along with some pill bugs. Put a piece of plastic wrap on top of the section of the bottle with the plant inside. Now poke small holes through the plastic and reattach the top half of the bottle (you had previously cut off ) back onto the lower half of the bottle that is holding the plant. Tape the two halves together. You now have a completed habitat garden.

**Teachers:** Assist students in constructing their habitat gardens. When they are finished, discuss how they were able to reuse a pop bottle and plastic and help the environment at the same time.