

Service-Learning Center of Excellence
Campus Field Work
Human Footprint

For this activity you will be in small groups of 4 or fewer outside on your school campus. The goal here is to recognize the impact that people have had on the habitat around us. In this activity, students will have the option to pick up litter.

Students will select a spot somewhere around the school building and follow the instructions below.

Method

Observation

Stand or sit with your group, each looking in a different direction. One at a time, each member tell the others everything you see that was put there by people, and what you see that you would say is “natural.” Go around your group more than once if necessary. We are going to look at which of these human footprints are good, and which are not good. If you have cameras, take a picture of what you see. You can include the partner in the picture!

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.

What do people do that is good for your habitat, and what do people do that is not good?

Lending a Hand to Help

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?

- 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.

Civic Nebraska can provide:

Funding for apps
Litter collection bags
Rubber gloves
Grabbers

