

Anacostia Field Experience Plastic Pollution Scavenger Hunt



Anacostia Riverkeeper offers these educational experiences when out exploring the watershed. Feel free to print & use when exploring on your own!

Anacostia Field Experience: Plastic Pollution Scavenger Hunt

Suggested Grade Band:	Grades 3-5
Next Generation Science Standard:	5-ESS3-1: <i>Obtain and combine information about ways individual communities use science ideas to protect the earth's resources and environment.</i>

Background Information

Since 2008, Anacostia Riverkeeper has managed Bandalong® Litter Traps in the Anacostia watershed. These Bandalong traps float on the surface of the water, collecting waste while allowing the water to pass. Anacostia Riverkeeper cleans the trash out of the trap periodically, and classifies what they find in order to have a better pulse on what waste is entering the river. They have seen changes in what they have found following increasing regulation around plastics and styrofoam in both the District and Maryland.

Supporting Materials & Resources




To help you (& your students) understand this data, we suggest the following websites & readings:

- DOEE [Water in the District Homepage](#)
- Anacostia Riverkeeper [Trash Mitigation homepage](#)
- DC's "[Reducing Food Service Waste](#)", "[Skip the bag, save the river](#)" and "[Foam Free DC](#)" laws.



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Plastic is a huge problem on the river! Plastic can harm the plants and animals that depend on the water, but can also release toxins that can harm humans that recreate on the river. Here in DC, the government has been working in the past decade to reduce how much plastic is getting into the water. They have passed a few important laws:

Law Passed:	Description:	You Draw! <i>Draw (or just list) items that the named law impacts.</i>
<p>Skip the Bag (2009)</p> 	<p>Commonly known as the “Bag Law”, this requires that District businesses that sell food or alcohol charge a \$0.05 fee for each paper and plastic bag distributed with any purchase. Funds generated go to a variety of educational, trash capture, and stream restoration projects throughout the Anacostia Watershed.</p>	
<p>Foam Free DC (2016)</p> 	<p>Bans the sale & use of disposable food service ware made of expanded polystyrene, also known by its trade name Styrofoam. Restaurants and stores are banned from giving customers foam take-out containers.</p>	
<p>Our Last Straw (2019)</p> 	<p>The Our Last Straw coalition encourages businesses, organizations, and individuals to pledge to end their reliance on single-use plastic straws by skipping straws entirely, switching to paper or reusable straws when needed</p>	

Trash Scavenger Hunt

How effective are our laws? Now, explore the area of the Anacostia around you to see what type(s) of trash you find.

Note- for your safety, don't touch the trash, just count it!

Plastic Bottles <i>(clear)</i>	
Plastic Bottles <i>(colored)</i>	
Plastic Bag	
Straw	
Foam Container	
Food Wrappers	
Cutlery <i>(forks, spoons, etc)</i>	
PPE <i>(Masks, gloves, etc)</i>	
<i>Make your own category!</i>	
<i>Make your own category!</i>	
<i>Make your own category!</i>	

Now, upload your data into the Google Form using the QR code to the right! It is also going to ask you to include pictures of the...

BIGGEST piece of trash you found!
SMALLEST piece of trash you found!
WEIRDEST piece of trash you found!

