



How Much Plastic Slips Through?

Marine debris often starts as litter that makes its way through local storm drains

While some marine debris comes from boats, other debris starts its trip to the ocean on ordinary streets like your own. In the [Do Your Storm Drains Keep the Ocean Trash Free?](#) project, you will document local stormwater drainage systems, make models of storm drains you find, and test those models to see how effective they are in filtering out plastic trash. (Difficulty: 6)



Be a Part of the Solution!

You can help troubleshoot the problem of marine debris--and put your engineering skills to the test--by participating in [The 2011 Tech Challenge](#), "Trash Island: The Great Pacific Gyre." *The challenge?* Develop a device that will remove plastic from a test rig created to simulate the Pacific Gyre. For contest information, visit: techchallenge.thetech.org.

(This work was sponsored, in part, by a grant from The Motorola Foundation.)

Hot New Project Ideas!

Tracking Migratory Flight

Explore migration patterns and conservation issues using data from Movebank.org in two new Science Buddies Project Ideas:



- [Do Migratory Birds Like It Hot?](#): Investigate *why* and *when* birds migrate and what temperature may have to do with migration routes and destinations. *Do birds simply go someplace warmer to winter?* (Zoology; Difficulty: 5-7)
- [Here Today, Gone Tomorrow: Saving Migratory Animals](#): Analyze wintering and breeding habitats, as well as stopover locations, to predict the impact of urban or environmental change on migratory species. (Environmental Science; Difficulty: 6-8)

Independent Research

Our [help guide](#) can get you started using Movebank, an archive of animal movement data, and offers ideas for the types of questions you might try to answer in a project of your own.

Science Careers in Demand

Careers in the **health sciences** are continuing to grow in demand, as are careers in **new and emerging fields**. These three "in demand" career profiles have just been added to our [science careers page](#):

- [Cytogenetic Technologist](#)
- [Optometrist](#)
- [Nanosystems Engineer](#)

Blogged: Accidental Bio-Discovery

A **lunch special** on the menu in restaurants in Vietnam turned out to be an **undocumented species of lizard**. Scientists arrived just a bit too late--*all samples had been cooked!* In [Desks Piled High, and Lizards for Lunch](#), get an overview of biodiversity issues and check out suggested Project Ideas for students.



Celebrate Your Science Success!

We are always excited to hear from students who have used Science Buddies Project Ideas and resources.



- *Did you do a Science Buddies Project Idea for your class assignment or*

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Project Idea Highlights

Centripetal Spin

What goes around comes around



Toys that spin are popular--and full of science! Your favorite "**spin battle**" is loaded with angles, trajectories, and laws of motion. The [Centripetal Force](#) project is a great way to begin exploring the **science behind "spin."** (Difficulty: 2)

Seeing Sedimentation

Make your own sedimentary rock



In [Sorting out Sedimentation](#), a recycled water bottle, initial shaking, and then evaporation of water over a period of days put the process of sedimentation in motion--and yields visible and measurable results. (Difficulty: 4)

(Science Buddies' [geology](#) Project Ideas are sponsored by Chevron.)

local fair?

- Did you use the Topic Selection Wizard?
- Did you do well at your school science fair?
- Are you moving on to advanced competition?

We are looking for stories to feature on our website. If you have a story to share, please email us at

SciBuddy@sciencebuddies.org.

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