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)

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
(This work was funded, in part, by the National Science Foundation's MIGRATE RCN. Science Buddies' zoology Project Ideas are sponsored by The Abbott Fund.)

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.)