



### 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](http://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](mailto:SciBuddy@sciencebuddies.org).

## Quick Links

- [Science Project Directory](#)
- [Topic Selection Wizard](#)
- [Project Guide](#)
- [Scientific Method](#)
- [Ask an Expert Forums](#)

