



# NJ Clean Communities Activity

## COMMON CORE CONNECTIONS:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.2

Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.7

Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.7

Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.4

Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

## **Objectives:**

Students will be able to:

1. define litter and identify types of litter seen in our communities.
2. compare and contrast the handling of waste and trash during the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> centuries with modern day procedures through images or a short essay, as appropriate to grade level.
3. identify reasons for new legislation in New Jersey for waste removal during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.
4. identify and describe modern day initiatives to help keep New Jersey communities clean and beautiful.
5. propose ways for young people to become involved in helping to keep NJ communities clean.



## Procedures:

1. Following the video, ask the students to recall the definition of litter and name various pieces of litter that they might see out of place in our communities.
  - a. Litter – solid waste that is out of place.
  - b. Answers may vary, but might include: plastic bags, diapers, plastic cups, food wrappers, cardboard boxes, etc.
  
2. Students should work in small groups or independently, as the teacher chooses, to develop a compare/contrast of how cities handle trash/waste removal during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries with modern day methods. (Student should reflect and draw their information from the video.)
  - a. Depending upon the grade level of the students, the teacher may choose to have the students complete this activity through one of the following choices:
    - i. Using a poster board, divide the paper in half. On the left side, draw and title a scene which illustrates how waste/trash was handled during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century. On the right side of the board, draw and title a scene which illustrates how waste/trash is handled today.
      1. Students should present their posters to the class.
    - ii. Using the information from the video as well as some basic internet research and [www.njclean.org](http://www.njclean.org), students will create a short essay to compare and contrast how the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries handled waste/trash removal with modern day methods.
      1. Students should provide a brief oral presentation on their essay.
  
3. Conduct a class discussion to identify why it was necessary in the 1980s for New Jersey to make changes in how waste management was handled and the outcome.
  - a. New Jersey solid waste crisis during the 1980s, large population creating more trash and little space for disposal.
  - b. 1987 – New Jersey Clean Communities Act
    - i. To bring awareness and educate on how to keep communities clean.
    - ii. Work with the New Jersey Environmental Protection Agency to create legislation for waste management both commercial and residential.
    - iii. Organize volunteers to help clean various environments of New Jersey.



## NEW JERSEY CLEAN COMMUNITIES

[www.njclean.org](http://www.njclean.org) (609) 989-5900

4. Students should work in small groups or independently, as the teacher chooses, to plan and promote various ways to encourage young people to become more active in helping to keep New Jersey communities clean.
  - a. Depending upon the grade level of the students, the teacher may choose to have the students complete this activity through one of the following choices:
    - i. Create a poster, with a motivational slogan, to recruit volunteers to help your local community to keep trash in its place.
      1. Students should present their posters to the class.
    - ii. Organize a clean-up day of your school grounds or a local park in which the students, parents and teachers of your class or school can help keep trash in its place.
  
5. Students can contact New Jersey Clean Communities to get involved by visiting the website at: [www.njclean.org](http://www.njclean.org)
  - a. Students can work with New Jersey Clean Communities and organize a clean-up in their community.
  - b. There are a number of programs New Jersey Clean Communities offers including, Slam Dunk the Junk, Clean Water Challenge, Adopt a Beach, Adopt a Highway, and more. Have students and teachers visit our website for complete details; <http://www.njclean.org/programs.html>

