



Citizenship and School Library

Thinking and taking action

Marine litter - community clean-up action

Dynamic

Sociopolitical Activism

Purposes

- Raise awareness for the need to protect and clean beaches.
 - Contribute to the collection of data on marine litter.
 - Encourage the circular economy.
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Description

- Propose to children and young people a community action for cleaning up the beach with the purpose of raising awareness for the protection and cleanliness of coastal and marine ecosystems. In order for the initiative to have the greatest impact, children and young people must:

1. Organize themselves in groups (5 elements/ group);
2. Discuss in plenary the strategies to be adopted;
3. Plan/ Reformulate the planning (References 1) and execute the action in group;
4. Disseminate in plenary and on the Internet the process and the results of the experience.

2.

Strategies:

- Photograph or film the beach before and after it is cleaned up (References 2), as well as each piece of waste found, in order to collect and register scientific evidence about the constitution, manufacturing process, use, geographical route followed... of each of them. Some of the data collected (typologies, quantities, location...) may help enrich the portuguese beach observatory launched by the app Lixo Marinho (References 3), so that we must collaborate in this registration - the awareness that a greater efficiency of action and harmony (peace) between people is built working with each other together is important.

- Based on the registered scientific evidence, formulate hypotheses that allow to explain, in a rigorous way, the origin and destination of every single piece of litter.

- From these hypotheses and, continuing to use the imagination, write a story - as believable as possible - of an object left behind or discarded.

- If the analysis of the object allows the identification of the company responsible for its manufacture, contact it and request a meeting in which the object is returned, the story is told and the



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degree of company's commitment to the forms of production and sustainable marketing is discussed. If the company agrees, this meeting can take place in the school library and be open to the community in order to achieve greater commitment and transparency in the process.

- Building, in the school library, or in another important space of the school, an installation that exposes the videos, the captioned photographs, the audios narrating the stories, as well as all the litter collected. Organize an open session to the community and with the main companies and other entities in the region and share the experience encouraging everyone to work together to preserve the oceans and the coastal and marine biodiversity.

- Building a piece of art with the litter collected (References 4) contributing creatively to a circular economy.*

*The circular economy preserves the value and usefulness of materials that we use on a daily basis, values the sharing and collaboration in the manufacturing process and object's use, as well as recycling, repairation, remanufacturing, design and technology.

- In order for the actions carried out to have a greater impact, it is important that the whole process is documented in the networks (Instagram, YouTube...) and the school library blog. This publication must, of course, comply with the General Regulation

Data Protection - principle of personal data minimisation, especially for minors. (References 5).

Note that the cleaning action must be negotiated with the Municipal Council of the region, the responsible entity for cleaning up and maintaining urban beaches, which can support the initiative by publicising it (action awareness strategy), as well as by providing transport and certain materials (bags, gloves...) for the realization of this initiative.

References

1.

Planning helps:

- The expression and organization of creative intelligence;
- The attitude of resilience in carrying the constant possibility of reformulation;
- The efficiency of action (anticipation and prevention of risks).

Online tools for strategic planning: Canva [\[Web\]](#); Coggle [\[Web\]](#); Online mental mapping [\[Web\]](#).

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2. The #TrashTag [\[Web\]](#) project responds to a challenge in defense and protection of the environment by publishing beaches' artistic photographs before and after they are cleaned.

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3. The marine's garbage app [\[Web\]](#) was launched by the Centre for Marine and Environmental Sciences (MARE) of the Faculty of Science and Technology of Coimbra's University [\[Web\]](#) in partnership with the Portuguese Marine Garbage Association [\[Web\]](#).

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4. There are several online campaigns for creative reuse of waste, for example: Your Garbage... My LUXURY!!! (Pinterest - <https://br.pinterest.com/seulixomeuluxo/>; Flickr - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/pimpmycarroca/11311569524>).

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5. European Commission [\[Web\]](#) National Data Protection Commission [\[Web\]](#).

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