

Adopt-a-River



Lifespan of Litter

Directions

Preparations:

Ages: 6th-12th Grade
Subject: Science
Time: 15-30 Minutes

Print out the images; there are 10 total. Cut in half so that you have one item on a 5.5" x 8.5" piece of paper. You can give students all 10 items, or you can reduce the number and make so that there is variability between sets. Having all 10 items would make it more difficult; reducing the size of the set would make it easier for younger students.

Print out enough worksheets so you have one per group. We recommend printing the chart on the backside so the students can check their answers when they are done. Just make sure they don't cheat by flipping it over.

To Play:

Have the students in groups of 4 to 6. Ask them to arrange the items from most to least durable. After they come to a consensus, review the arrangements each group has made. The correct order is: glass bottle, 6-pack ring, aluminum can, plastic milk jug, diaper, cigarette butt, cotton rag, banana peel, paper, and candy wrapper. This information was provided by the Minnesota Department of Transportation and can also be found on the websites of most DOT's in other states.

The only items that cannot be recycled is the baby diaper and six pack ring. Use this as an opportunity to discuss the hazards that six pack rings post to wildlife and that the best thing to do with them is CUT THEM UP then throw them away!

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<http://www.mndnr.gov/adoptriver>