

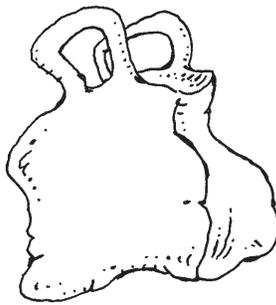
Beach Cleanup: The Dirty Dozen

Every September, volunteers around the world hit the beaches, lakes, and river banks on **International Coastal Cleanup Day**. Volunteers include scout troops, school classes, church groups, and businesses, and their mission is to pick up litter. As they go, they keep track of what trash they find—and how much.

There are always the usual suspects: bottles, bags, and wrappers. There are typi-

cally a few surprises too: TVs, shopping carts, tires, and boats. But the number-one piece of litter found along our shores is almost always the same. Can you guess what it is?

Fill in the missing letters to reveal the “dirty dozen.” These are the trash items found most often during beach clean-ups. The missing letters will spell out the single most common piece of litter.



aps and lids

drnk cans

bas

blloons

cigas

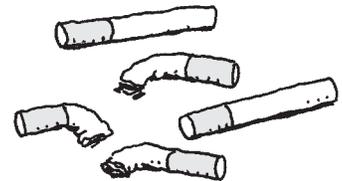
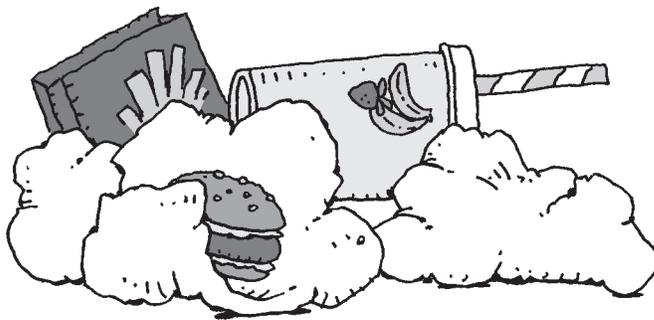
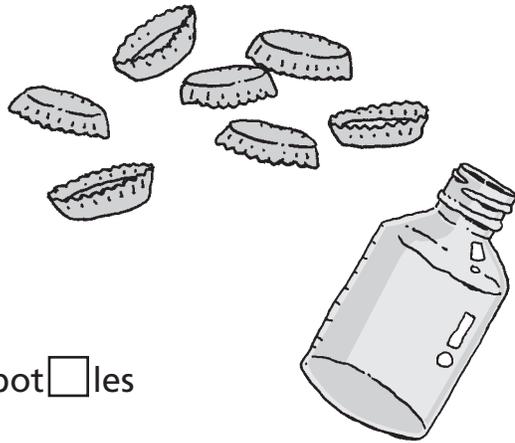
food wrapprs

glass and plastic botles

pull abs

forks, spoons, cups, and plats

stirrers and traws



DID YOU KNOW? At least 18% of litter thrown on the ground ends up in the world’s waterways. Wind and ocean currents carry trash over long distances. Out of every five pieces of litter collected during a beach cleanup, one is a cigarette. About 5,000,000,000,000 (that’s 5 trillion) cigarettes are tossed on the ground every year. They can leak harmful chemicals into the ground and water. Encourage people to put a lid on littering—and kick the smoking habit too.



Conduct a park or campus cleanup. Predict the top 12 types of trash you’ll find. Write them on the back of this page. Then make a list of litter you actually collect. Compare it to your predictions. Did anything surprise you?