

The Long and Winding Road

Objective: Students will become familiar with the path of a piece of trash and learn how it becomes a floatable.

Materials: Paper for recording results, one dice set per group (templates on the following pages). Scissors and tape, if the students will be putting the cubes together themselves.

ACTIVITY SUMMARY:

Students play a game with a set of four dice. Each player identifies with a piece of trash, whose fate is decided by a roll of the die: “*Thrown into the trash,*” or “*You are washed down a storm drain,*” etc. This game can also be played as a class, where groups of students identify with one die.

PROCEDURE:

1. Break the class up into groups of 4-5.
2. Have each person pick a small trash item (pen cap, bottle top, candy wrapper, etc.)
3. Each student selects a die (numbered 1-4, but photocopying them onto colored paper makes things easier).
4. Students that have die #1 roll first. Students should read aloud what they rolled. Statements ending in OUT means they have reached the landfill and are safe from *becoming a floatable!* Move on to students with die #2, etc.
5. Students continue rolling the die until they have reached the end of their item’s path.

EXTENSIONS:

1. Have students draw a picture or write a story, poem or song that tells or describes the path of trash and its journey into the ocean. Ask them to be imaginative and creative. Their piece should discuss where the piece of trash began its journey, how and where it traveled, and where it ended up.
2. More advanced student groups can also calculate the probability of the trash becoming a floatable or being disposed of properly.

EVERYBODY

IN THE CLASSROOM

Skills:

*Teamwork,
Observe/Compare.*

Subject/Discipline:

*Science, Math, Language Arts,
Expressive Arts.*

Science Standards:

S1, S3, S4, S5, S8

Grades 4 – 12

Time:

One class meeting.

The Inside Track:

This is an excellent follow-up activity to *Is A Storm Drain A Trash Can?*

To learn more about the Bronx River Watershed, see **WHAT IS A WATERSHED?**

For more water education ideas, contact the New York City Department of Environmental Protection at: educationoffice@dep.nyc.gov or www.nyc.gov/dep



*Submitted by Karlee Yurek and the New York City Soil and Water Conservation District.
Die design used with permission.*









