



# Turning the Tide on Trash:

## A Learning Guide on Marine Debris



### IN A NUTSHELL

United States Environmental  
Protection Agency,  
Office of Water

National Center for  
Environmental Publications  
& Information  
P.O. Box 42419  
Cincinnati, OH 45452  
Reference #842-B-92-003

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**Cost:** No charge

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### SUBJECTS

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Fine Arts  
Language Arts  
Mathematics  
Science  
Social Studies

The lessons in this collection are intended to provide students with an understanding of problems associated with marine debris. The first unit addresses the kinds of debris found in and near oceans, and traces that debris back to its source. It then looks at the human behaviors which led to it entering the ocean. The second unit addresses the damage done by marine debris. The final unit looks at efforts to clean beaches and marine areas and includes a community education campaign. Each unit consists of three to six activities and background material.

Activities include board games, trash inventories, research projects, experiments, and artwork. Other features include a glossary, a resource list, nature clip-art designs, and listings of activities by subject matter and learning skills. Illustrations consist of charts, photographs, and drawings.

**Grade Level**  
4-8

**Length**  
78 pages

**Date Published**  
1992

**THE** BOTTOM  
LINE

"Many of these activities are long-term and really get the students involved."

What the REVIEWERS Said !	Key Characteristics	Strengths Noted	Other Considerations
	Fairness and Accuracy	Discusses international agreements. Provides information on regulations governing waste disposal at sea.	Does not list sources of information. Resource lists do not include economic or business organizations. Presentation not always balanced.
	Depth	Clearly states concepts. Builds awareness of both local and global effects of marine debris.	Primary focus is on the United States.
	Emphasis on Skills Building	Connects skills to issues.	Learning skills may be overstated.
	Action Orientation	Looks at personal, national, and global responsibilities.	Advocates particular actions, rather than encouraging development of action steps.
	Instructional Soundness	Makes use of a variety of learning styles. Activities build on each other and make connections to learners' lives.	Curriculum is not inquiry based.
Usability	Book is easy to photocopy. Lessons are not location-specific and are adaptable to river debris issues.		

"Activities may need more time than is available in school."

"Good information on sources, solutions, and prevention of marine debris."