

Plastics fieldwork report frame



For your plastics fieldwork, you will need to produce a report. You will be provided with additional materials to present this in your exercise books or on separate paper.

A report for fieldwork has five sections

Introduction

The introduction provides an overview of the topic you are studying.

Methodology

This section describes the way that you carried out your fieldwork.

Data presentation

Present the information that you gathered on your fieldwork using a combination of tables, graphs, charts, maps and photos.

Data analysis

Analyse the data you have gathered and describe any patterns that you have discovered.

Conclusion

Present conclusions based on your analysis, including proposals for any actions that could be taken based on your analysis. You can also reflect on what went well and what could be improved.

Introduction

Write your own or use the model introduction below.

We are investigating the level of plastic pollution and how it affects the environmental quality of our local area. Plastic pollution is a serious issue affecting environmental and human health. By collecting data and analysing it, we will present ideas for reducing the amount of plastic pollution in our local area.

You may also want to include some facts on the scale of the plastic pollution problem, e.g. over 200 million tonnes of plastic was discarded in 2015.

Methodology

Write your own or use the model methodology below.

To assess the level of plastic pollution and environmental quality in the local area, we visited five [change as appropriate] sites. At each site, we counted the amount of litter, and categorised these items of litter as plastic and non-plastic. We also gave each site an environmental quality score.

This score was made up of different factors that we selected before we conducted the fieldwork. We chose cleanliness, peacefulness, and the amount of greenery [change these as appropriate]. We also took photographs at each site, so that we had a visual record of what the data actually looked like.

You may also want to include an example of your data record sheet.

Data presentation

For the data presentation, you will need to complete the three compulsory activities. As a challenge, you can also select from the optional data presentation activities.

Compulsory activities

- Create a table that ranks environmental quality of the sites from best to worst.
- Draw a clustered block chart that shows the number of plastic and non-plastic items of litter for each site.
- Create a map of the area, with each sample site marked, and using a key show the level of litter for each site. Add a scale and orientation as a bonus.

Optional activities

- Create a pie chart to show the overall proportion of plastic vs non-plastic litter found in the local area.
- Choose a graph format to show the relationship between environmental quality and number of litter items.
- Choose a graph format to show the relationship between number of litter items and sources of litter (e.g. canteen, vending machine, kiosk, etc.).
- Consider other formats to represent data that may communicate the issue of plastic pollution better such as a pictograph.
- Choose how to add photos to your data presentation to bring it to life.

Data analysis

Answer the following questions to provide an analysis of your data.

- Is there a pattern as to where the best and worst sites are for environmental quality and plastic pollution? (one sentence)
- What is the pattern? (two sentences)
- How can the pattern be explained? (three sentences)

Conclusion

Use the framework on Student Sheet 9b to complete your conclusion.