

Unit 8: Improving the environment



Learnanywhere

What is the environment like in school?

Do a survey of how many children are moving around the school at different times of day.

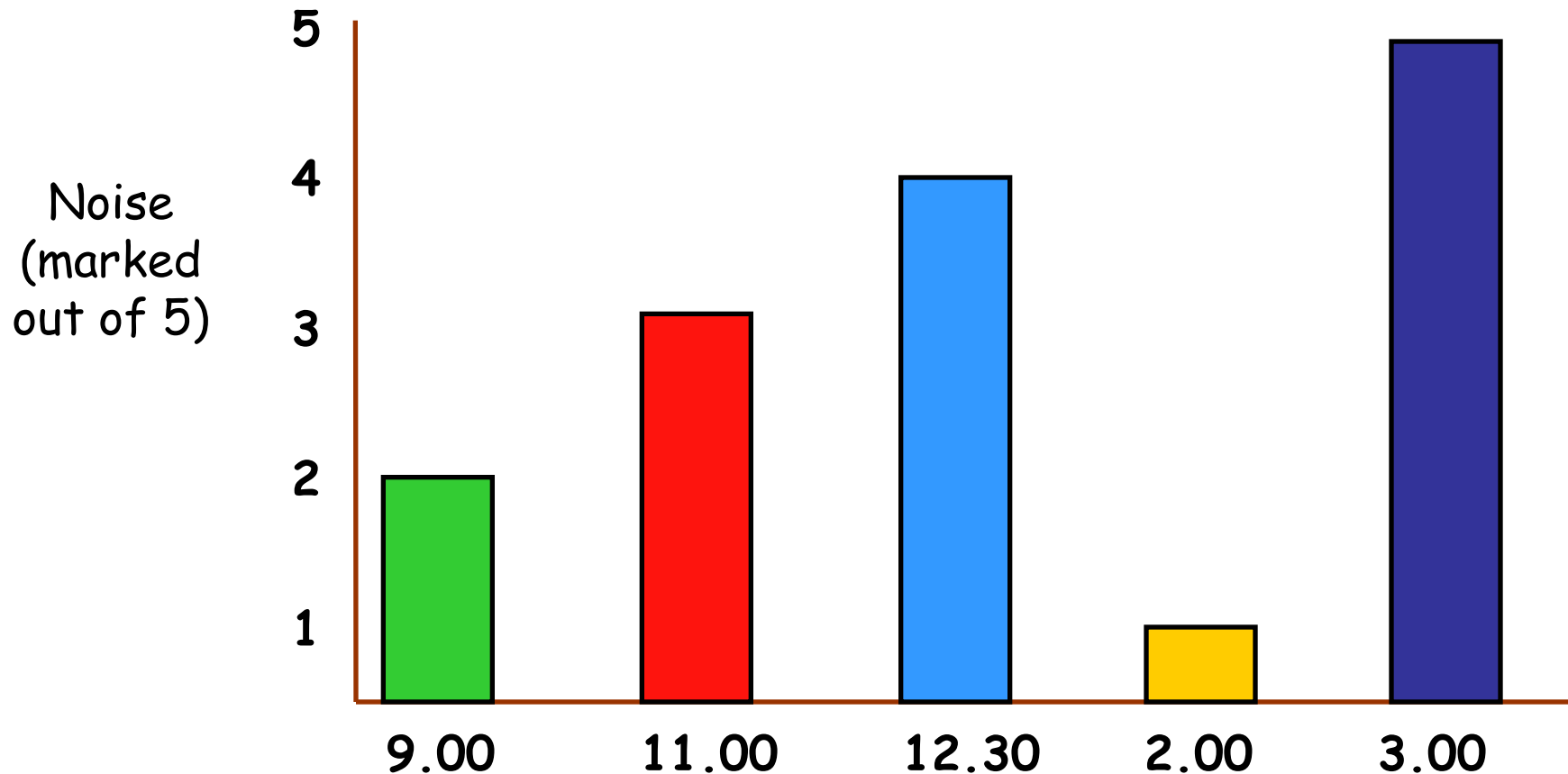
Use a tape recorder to record how much noise is produced at each time of day.

Do you think that noise is a problem in your school?

If some children are being noisy, how does it affect others?

How do you think the amount of noise could be reduced?

You could present the results of your survey in a graph like the one below.



What is the noisiest time of day according to this graph? Why might this be? Is this the same in your school?

What do we throw away in the classroom?

Tissues

Orange peel

Used printer
cartridges

Drinks cartons

Old
worksheets

Cutout paper

Apple cores

Pencil shavings

Can you think of other things?

How could it be reduced?

There are four main ways that we can reduce the amount of waste we produce in the classroom:

1. Don't use things with lots of packaging or wrapping
2. Re-use things when possible, like using old worksheets as scrap paper
3. Recycle things like paper, plastic and glass
4. Put things like fruit peel and apple cores on a compost heap

How much do we throw away in the school grounds?

To find out how much rubbish is thrown away in the school grounds each week, you will need to measure two things:

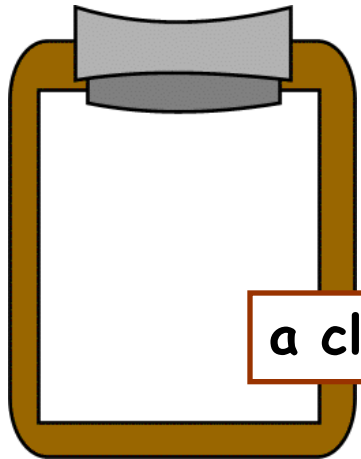
How much rubbish is thrown into the bins?

How much litter is left on the ground?

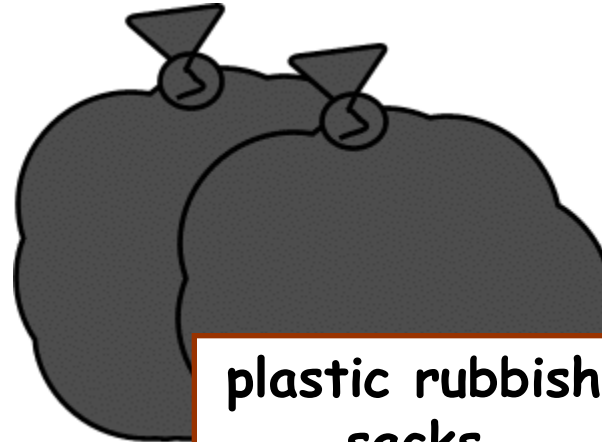
We can do this by:

- Emptying out all the bins through the week and weighing them to find out the weight of the rubbish.
- Collecting all the litter from the playground and school grounds and weighing it.
- Adding the two totals together.

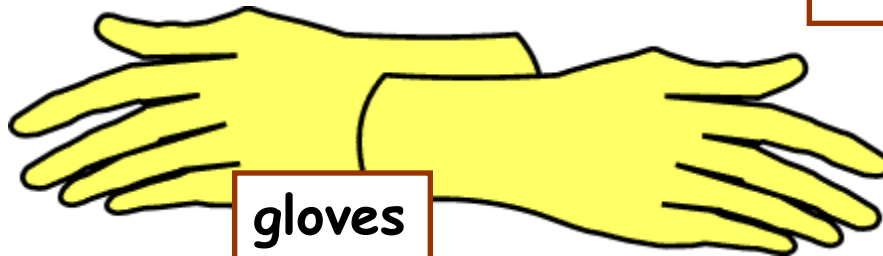
What equipment will we need for our investigation?



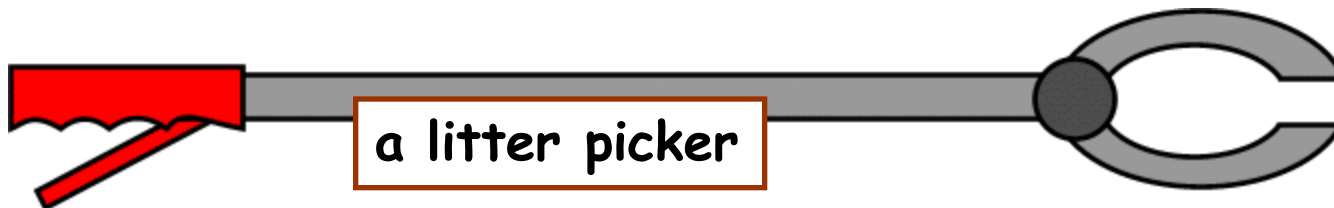
a clipboard



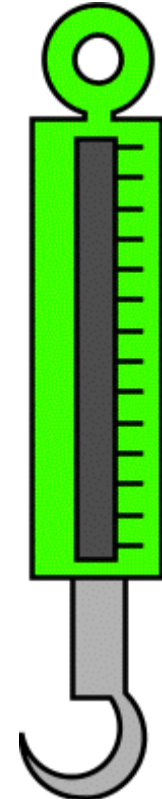
plastic rubbish sacks



gloves



a litter picker



hanging scales

Is the amount being thrown away getting better or worse?

Put your results into a table to track whether things are getting better or worse.

Look at the table below. Are things at this school getting better or worse?

Week	Litter in the bin	Litter on the ground
1	8kg	4.5kg
2	9kg	4kg
3	10kg	3kg
4	10.4kg	2.8kg

How can we improve our local environment?



Are there places in our local area which need to be made better?

How would you go about improving the situation?

Why did these things happen? Can we stop them happening again?