Litterati of the world unite!

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What is Litterati?

Introduction

Bring in a few pieces of litter and spread them on the floor at the front of the class. Drop them theatrically as if dropping litter. Ask the whole class what they think about litter.

1 Tell your students they will read about a school investigating litter in their community using an App called Litterati. Ask if anyone knows or uses the App already.
Hand out the text, or tell students to open it on their tablets.

- Tell students to answer the questions with a partner.
  a) How did the students have fun using Litterati? - (The students had) fun documenting and publishing their work on the internet.

  b) Where does information gathered with Litterati go? - the programme platform where the image is pinned to a global map

  c) What does Mrs Gray say students learn while using the Litterati App? - team work, IT and community responsibility.

  d) What did the children do to improve the litter situation in their town? - wrote to local businesses presenting data from their Litterati survey, and with advice on what they could do to reduce the effect litter from their companies was having on the local environment.

  e) Check answers and then take answers from the whole class for the last question.
  Ask the class if they would like to learn more about Litterati and discuss how they can use it in their community.

2 Tell the students they will watch a TED talk from Litterati creator Jeff Kirschner.
Ask students to listen for the main aims and goals of the project.
You can play the clip from the TES site, where subtitles are available, or from TrashedWorld.
Jeff says a number of things about 'creating a litter free world', 'providing proof', 'getting kids involved', 'changing things one piece at a time'. Your students may say the same or similar. The aim is for them to have a gist viewing of the clip.

- Tell the students to watch the clip again and do the activities on Litterati page 2.

  a)

  b) 4 million dollars

  c) plastic spoons

  d) 1) 1,500, 2) litter, 3) packets, 4) packaging

3 Put students into groups of 3 - 4 for the Litterati Investigation

Point out the images on Litterati page 3 of pinned litter on the Litterati map and explain that the groups should download the App to one of their smartphones.
https://litterati.org/index.php#download
With the App, the groups will choose a location in their community to investigate litter following the instructions.

Back in class, when the site map has updated with the litter, students will make a copy of the map to show the litter they have collected - https://map.litterati.org/globalmap/

Tell students to examine the types of litter they have collected identifying products, materials, brands. Ask them to identify what the most common brands are.

With this information tell the groups to agree on the best way to visually present their data, whether it is in the form of a pie diagram, bar chart, picture, or other.
Get the groups to do brief presentations of their findings to the rest of the class.

Find partner schools to exchange with and tell students to make contact to share their findings with schools in other countries. Try to get partners to send you their data in return so your students can make comparative studies using the Litterati App.

4 Litterati Investigation - follow-up activities
If you have time, there are many institutions which could benefit from your Litterati findings. Discuss with your class about which organizations and bodies they could write to. They may think of others not listed.
Still in their groups, tell the students to write a letter using the letter template to help them. Be sure that the groups write to different organizations.
Share any responses your students get with your partners in the TrashedWorld community.