

13. Dealing with litter in parks

Aim

National parks are established to protect areas that have special natural values. To achieve this goal, rules (regulations) have been developed. In this activity students examine a number of points of view and Parks Victoria's no bin rationale for its parks.

Activities

This activity can be undertaken in small groups.

1. Read the statements listed below.
2. Sort the statements into a table with two headings:
 - Reasons to have bins.
 - Reasons not to have bins.

3. Draw an asterisk next to (or highlight) the statements you consider most important.

4. Write a paragraph outlining and justifying your proposed bin policy for national parks.

5. The teacher reads out to the class each group's paragraphs. Which bin policy was most popular?

6. Suggest reasons why there are no bins in some national parks. What does Parks Victoria want visitors to do with their rubbish?

Extension

6. Design a brochure or information board to explain to park visitors why there are no bins in the picnic ground.

Statements about bins in parks

- It is important to have bins so that visitors can dispose of their litter.
- The park is much cleaner without bins. Rangers at Point Nepean National Park found that the removal of bins in fact reduced the amount of litter that has to be picked up by park staff.
- Emptying bins is a good use of rangers' time.
- Some people don't use the bins.
- It costs each park thousands of dollars each year to empty rubbish bins.
- A 'no bins' policy will encourage people to take responsibility for disposing of their own waste.
- It is more convenient for people to be able to dispose of their litter at the park.
- Bins can become a health risk to humans and animals because on a hot summers day maggots can grow in the bin.
- Animals can get into bins and can be injured or trapped. Rangers at Kinglake National Park have found marsupial mice trapped in bins.
- If the bin is not closed at all times the litter can be taken out of the bin by birds.
- People who take their waste home can sort it for composting and recycling.
- Sometimes bins can smell.