



UNTAMED S2E6: Critters Don't Need Litter

Discussion Questions

These discussion questions are designed to be used as a resource that inspires conversation, critical thinking, and promotes a "big picture" understanding of topics covered in each episode. Questions may be answered individually, or out loud in a group setting. Key terms and vocabulary that will help educators and students engage in discussion include:

[Litter, pollution, watershed, single-use, recycle, decompose, biodegrade]

The following questions are best used when paired with a complete viewing of the full episode, and may be more suitable for advanced levels:

1. Many of the harmful effects that littering has on wildlife and the environment can be easily avoided if humans simply wouldn't do it -- a seemingly simple solution to an enormous problem. Why do you think this is such a difficult task for our society to achieve?
2. How might the level of development in an area (urban, suburban, or rural) affect the kinds of trash typically found in those places? Do different kinds of trash have different levels of impact on wildlife and the environment?
3. Litter deposited in rivers or streams often end up miles from their point of origin, and affect places far away. Is there a fair and realistic way to determine who should be responsible -- the community where it came from, or the community where it was found -- for cleaning it up?
4. What emotions do you feel when you see litter in a natural place?
5. In the scope of human history single-use plastic is a relatively new invention, and we still don't know the exact long-term impacts it will have on our environment. What laws or regulations do you think would be the most helpful in protecting the planet for future generations?

The following questions are best used when paired with a viewing of “Critters Don’t Need Litter: In (About) Two Minutes”, a synopsis of the major themes and key topics covered in the full episode, that may be more suitable for younger audiences:

1. Besides food, can you think of any other forms of litter that might hurt wildlife, even if they don’t seem harmful at first?
2. What’s one small action you can take each day to prevent the amount of litter in nature?
3. The Message of the Apple Core is told like a story to teach people about littering. Why do you think it’s so easy for most people to remember lessons from stories?