

## Clean up at Pembroke National Park

### Project-based learning activity at one of the Nature 2000 sites in Malta

A clean up held at Pembroke National Park was organised for us, by some of our teachers at St. Ignatius College middle school. Our class was chosen from the form 4 classes and another class was chosen from the form 2 classes. Our clean up activity was the tenth one taking place.

As soon as we arrived, the nature trust representative prepared a talk for us with a brief explanation about the park. He made us aware of the regulations we had to follow during the clean up, for example we had to try not to step on the plants when searching around, we had to make sure not to destroy any creature's home when picking up trash and many other orders. He also told us about the permeation they had to get in order to organize this type of activities. When the talk was over, the teacher split us into four groups and they gave us five different garbage bags and some pickers. We had five garbage bags to separate the trash accordingly; paper, plastic, metal, glass and general waste.

We all went in different areas and picked up all trash we could find. We were surprised as when we arrived we all thought that the place was clean but as soon as we began we changed our minds straight away. We found all kinds of stuff like cans, tissues, plastic bottles and many disgusting stuff like nappies and condoms. We were very disappointed as we didn't think people would do such thing. When we were ready we grabbed all garbage bags and then weighed all the trash. The result was very surprising as it ended up as 144.7 kilos!

After this, the environment minister arrived and we explained what our project consisted of and what we had done. Then we interviewed the minister, Miss Eco Malta and the nature trust representative with the questions we had prepared ourselves. We discussed many different things and we gave many different opinions such as putting a camera so that the individual which is throwing away trash could be caught and given an advice not to do it again.

This outing served me very well as I learned many different things. I became more aware of what would result if everyone of us threw one piece of trash. In the end, it's no use going and picking others trash if they don't make their own part. I think we should make people more aware of the result caused by the trash they are throwing.

