

Thai parks mail litter back to tourists

20th September, 2020



Litterbugs who drop their rubbish in national parks in Thailand may be in for a surprise the next time they check their mail - the litter they left may have been returned to them.

Thailand's Environment Minister has decided to take a stand on the increasing amount

of sweet wrappers, plastic bottles and paper that is strewn across national parks. He has asked park wardens to collect the litter and mail it to the offending litterbug. It comes with a letter that says: "We collected your garbage in a cardboard box and sent it to your home. This should be a lesson to you, to never again throw away waste anywhere." Additional penalties could come in the form of five years imprisonment or a hefty \$16,000 fine.

The severe penalties have been initiated because of litter becoming an eyesore in many of Thailand's beauty spots. Park wardens say it is relatively easy to track down and identify offenders as all visitors to the parks are required to register their address when they enter a park. Anyone who leaves refuse near their assigned camping spot will be reunited with their waste. Narin Pinsakul, chief of the Khao Yai National Park near Bangkok, explained why the parks were introducing their return-to-litterbug policy. He said: "It can be dangerous for animals like deer if they eat the rubbish and try to digest plastic waste that people leave behind." The Environment Minister said people should only leave footprints behind.

Sources: scmp.com / asianewstoday.com / bangkokherald.com

Writing

Littering should be made a serious crime with long prison sentences. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

litterbug / national park / surprise / mail / environment / cardboard box / fines / severe / beauty spots / visitors / address / camping / policy / plastic / footprints

True / False

- a) The article said bugs are surprised when people drop litter. T / F
- b) Thailand's Minister for Parks has decided to take a stand. T / F
- c) Litter is mailed to people in a cardboard box. T / F
- d) People can get a \$16,000 fine for littering in Thai national parks. T / F
- e) The article said the parks are great for people with sore eyes. T / F
- f) Visitors to the parks must register with their address. T / F
- g) A park warden said the litter can be a danger to deer. T / F
- h) The government said people should only leave footprints in parks. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. rubbish | a. plans |
| 2. surprise | b. punishments |
| 3. strewn | c. harsh |
| 4. collected | d. shock |
| 5. penalties | e. find |
| 6. severe | f. trash |
| 7. eyesore | g. gathered |
| 8. track down | h. abandon |
| 9. policy | i. scattered |
| 10. leave behind | j. ugly sight |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of litterbugs?
- b) What do you do with your litter?
- c) Do you tell someone if you see they have dropped litter?
- d) How much litter is there in your town?
- e) What do you think of Thailand's litter policy?
- f) How do you feel when you see litter?
- g) What should the fine be for littering?
- h) Should people go to prison for littering?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. the next time they check | a. their address |
| 2. paper that is strewn | b. fine |
| 3. cardboard | c. behind |
| 4. a hefty \$16,000 | d. across national parks |
| 5. five years | e. box |
| 6. litter becoming | f. like deer |
| 7. required to register | g. imprisonment |
| 8. camping | h. an eyesore |
| 9. dangerous for animals | i. their mail |
| 10. people should only leave footprints | j. spot |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Would you spend a day picking up litter at a beauty spot?
- Are there enough litter bins in your town?
- Why do people litter?
- What does littering say about someone's character?
- How would you get people to not litter?
- Should we pick up other people's litter?
- What questions would you like to ask the environment minister?

Spelling

- btigrestlu who drop their rubbish
- the increasing amount of sweet waespprr
- rwtnes across national parks
- He has asked park ewrasnd
- additional etiepanls could come
- five years niseoimnmrpt
- litter becoming an yerseeo
- raeelytiv easy to track down
- identify nfsfoerd
- near their nesigdsa camping spot
- try to dietsg plastic
- people should only leave itotrpsfn behind

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. i	4. g	5. b
6. c	7. j	8. e	9. a	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Plastic Bottles

You think plastic bottles are the worst forms of litter. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their types of litter aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): face masks, chewing gum or straws.

Role B – Face Masks

You think face masks are the worst forms of litter. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their types of litter aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): plastic bottles, chewing gum or straws.

Role C – Chewing Gum

You think chewing gum is the worst form of litter. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their types of litter aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): face masks, plastic bottles or straws.

Role D – Straws

You think straws are the worst forms of litter. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their types of litter aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): face masks, chewing gum or plastic bottles.

Speaking – Litter

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| • train tickets | • plastic bottles |
| • burger wrappers | • face masks |
| • straws | • newspapers |
| • potato chip bag | • chewing gum |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.