

GOAL 14: LIFE BELOW WATER

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



PURPOSE

To learn about rubbish which pollutes our seas and rivers.

PLACE

Plan an expedition, trip or a camp to a local river or beach. Do a risk assessment of the activity before you go.

MATERIALS

Thick rubber gloves, bin bags and other protective gear

Clipboards, paper and pens

ACTIVITY (1 HOUR+)

Spread out along the beach or river bank in small groups. One person should take a note of all the litter that is gathered – what material is it made of? How many items are collected?

If you're on the beach, collect small plastic items separately. Gather and arrange them into a colourful design – you might

like to take pictures of it to use in posters etc. if you follow up this issue for your Environmental Conservation Badge. This activity is possible in other settings, but may be hazardous. Plastic washed up by the sea is fairly clean, and easy to handle.

FOLLOW UP (20 minutes+)

After collecting the litter, watch a video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-OyEcLuDMek>

or have a discussion about water pollution.

Help the young people to understand what is polluting our water, and how it gets there. Challenge them to think about what they can do themselves that will make a difference – using less plastic, what they flush down the toilet, not dropping litter, more beach cleans and litter collections with other local organisations.

SUMMARY

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Over three quarters of our planet is covered by oceans. They contain over 80 percent of all life on earth, mostly unexplored. Millions of people worldwide depend on the oceans for their daily livelihoods. They help also with the breakdown and removal of waste and pollution, and their coastal ecosystems act as buffers to reduce damage from storms. We need to protect our oceans.

TARGETS

- Prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities.
- Sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems.
- Enact laws that prohibit illegal fishing, overfishing and other destructive fishing practices.
- Minimise and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels.

- By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.
- Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.
- By 2020, conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas.

ACTIVITY

Organise a litter pick at a local beach or river to find out about the rubbish which pollutes our seas and rivers.

TAKE IT FURTHER

> Find out more about the technology being used to clean up the world's oceans:

<https://www.theoceancleanup.com/technology>

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