

## *Ocean Action Pod Core activity*

### **Plastic Pollution Solutions: 101 ways to make a difference**

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Explore the Ocean Action Pod's debris plinths and learn about single use plastic and how we can all work to reduce our reliance on it. Work with your classmates to come up with creative solutions for reducing the amount of plastic we use in our school and at home.

Contribute to our '101 things' list of plastic pollution solutions that is being made for kids, by kids! Take a pledge to reduce plastic in your life.



## Activity 1: Plastic fantastic?

This activity gets students to understand the diverse range of plastic used throughout their lives and the key distinction between single use plastic and longer-term objects.

### Key points of learning, in order

- All of us use plastic every day. Some plastic we use only once and some plastic we use over and over again.
- Plastic is not BAD, but some ways that we use it are not very clever!
  - Plastic is actually a fantastic wonder material that we simply can't do without. Think of some important things that we absolutely need plastic for!
  - BUT – sometimes we use plastic in silly ways, for things we don't really need. Sometimes we only use it once and then throw it away!
- We need to **THINK about the WAY that we use plastic**, so that we save it for important things and use it over and over again.

### Equipment

- Fantastic plastic banner
- Blue EVA
- Collection of assorted items that match the banner
- Coreflute board, chalkboard or similar + suitable pen/chalk

### Setting up

1. Sit the class in a circle with approximately a 5 metre diameter
2. Lay out the fantastic plastic banner on the ground in the middle of the circle. If on grass, use tent pegs to hold it down.
3. Take the collection of plastic and lay it randomly on the ground around the edges of the banner.

Establish ground rule – no walking on the banner. They can crawl

### Running the activity

#### A) Introduce the banner and key concepts

- i) Some plastic is used for a long time... and some plastic is only used once
  - Show examples of both
- ii) Some plastic things are very important... and some plastic things are not very important
  - Show examples of both

- iii) Some plastic is fantastic... and some is not fantastic
  - Show examples of both – this is a combination of the two assessments above
- iv) We can draw a graph with an axis for both ways of assessing plastic.
  - Use the board to draw a simple X/Y axis and mark on: Used once, Used for decades, Don't really need this, Really important. Talk about how we can take any item and draw a point on the graph to show where it goes.
  - Then switch to the banner and explain how the banner is a big version of what you just drew.

## **B) Play the game**

The students are told to look at the objects in front of them. Where do they think they belong on the banner?

- i) Start by asking individuals who feel confident to get up and position some things one at a time. Ask the child placing an object why they put it where they did. Do this with a few different objects/children.
- ii) Once the class is clear about how the banner works and what they need to do, it's a free for all.
  - Use a timer for three minutes if you want to add some urgency.
- iii) Are there any items left at the end? If so, pick them up and ask the class if anyone knows where to put them?
- iv) Are there any items that might be in the wrong places? See if anyone wants to reposition anything. They will need to explain to the class why they are moving it.

## **C) Wrap up**

What did we learn from this activity? Go around / ask for hands up

Key points:

- There are lots of 'not fantastic' plastic items in our lives
- If we refuse, reduce, reuse, repair and remake we can all make a difference.
- Recycling is the last option!

## **Activity 2: Looking at the plinths**

Worksheet exercise "Exploring common ocean debris items"  
Split into small groups of three, one sheet per group.



## **Activity 2:** The 6 Rs – Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Remake Recycle

This activity explores how we can work with common plastic items to help reduce waste, placing recycling as the last resort!

Six hoops for the six Rs

Place items from plinths and other items in the 6 hoops. Get children to talk about why they place in each hoop. Aim to move things in lower hoops up to R

## **Activity 3:** 101 solutions



**Key Curriculum areas covered:**

**HSEI**

*Geography*

GE3-2 - Explains interactions and connections between people, places and environments