



## Environmental Activities

### Sustainable Development Goals



#### Goal

The goal of SDG 14 is to: Conserve and sustainably use oceans, sea and marine resources for sustainable development.

#### Introduction

Healthy oceans and seas are essential to our existence. They cover 70% of our planet and we rely on them for food, energy and water. One of the main dangers to our oceans is pollution. Ask the Scouts what are some of the causes of pollution in our oceans and streams. How does litter get into our oceans and waterways?

Plastic pollution is one of the leading pollutants in our ocean.

What issues can plastic pollution cause? Floating islands of plastic, ingestion by animals, entangling animals, acidification of the ocean.

Show some pictures of plastic pollution.

#### Activity

Collect litter from areas adjacent to a beach or waterway using buckets and gloves. Place all the rubbish onto a tarpaulin and identify and record the types of litter from recyclables to rubbish. Leaders dispose of rubbish and return recyclables where appropriate (bottles and cans to cash for cans and other recyclables to council recycling depot). Discuss what can be recycled from the collection.

#### Time required

60-120 minutes

#### Equipment needed

Gardening gloves, buckets or cloth bags for collecting rubbish, tarpaulin.

#### Discuss the results

What did we collect most of?

- Usually plastic bottles and aluminium cans

What can we do to prevent littering the oceans and waterways?

- Don't buy bottled water: use a refillable bottle
- Use less plastic: beeswax wraps, lunch boxes, metal or cardboard straws
- Choose to buy products without plastic packaging where possible.
- Use reusable shopping bags and vegetable bags.
- Don't litter: take rubbish home
- Choose toothpastes, soaps and detergents that don't contain plastic microbeads.
- Refuse, reduce, reuse and recycle plastics

## Resources

Plastic Pollution #1 Killer of Marine Wildlife According To Research

<https://www.onegreenplanet.org/environment/plastic-pollution-1-killer-of-marine-wildlife-according-to-research/>

The EPA Marks Marine Plastic Pollution As A Top Priority <https://www.intelligentliving.co/epa-plastic-pollution-top-priority/>

Horrific Facts About Plastic Pollution In The Ocean <https://www.beach.com/conservation/15-horrific-facts-plastic-pollution-in-the-ocean/>

Beat the microbead app <http://get.beatthemicrobead.org>

Think Beyond Plastic <http://www.thinkbeyondplastic.com/>

Edible cutlery <http://www.bakeys.com/>