

Activity: Wet wipes investigation

Wet wipes are some of the most common items found on UK beaches. Use this experiment to show pupils the problems with wet wipes when they reach the ocean.

You will need for each group:

- 2 x large bottles with lids, three-quarters full of water
- 1 piece of toilet paper
- 1 wet wipe
- [Investigation sheet](#)

What to do:

1. In small groups, pupils should discuss ideas for an experiment to test what happens to wet wipes in the ocean. They should consider how to make their experiment a fair test. Note ideas on the [investigation sheet](#).
2. In groups of four, add a piece of toilet paper to one of the bottles of water and screw the lid on tightly. Ask one person in the group to shake the bottle for 30 seconds, then pass it round until everyone has shaken it for 30 seconds.
3. Now do the same thing again with the wipe.
4. Observe the differences between the bottles.
5. As a class, discuss what might happen if the wipe and paper were in the sea? Thousands of wipes are found on our beaches and in the sea each year. What might happen to wildlife if they eat a wet wipe?



In sewers, wet wipes can combine with fat, grease and oil to form giant fatbergs. But only 5% is actual fat – 93% is wet wipes!

When items such as wet wipes are flushed down the loo, they can create blockages in sewer pipes. In a blockage, to stop sewage 'backing up' and flooding people's homes, emergency valves are triggered and sewage is released into local rivers and the sea. Some wet wipes contain plastic fibres and pose a severe threat to wildlife.

Our Investigation

Name:

We are finding out about...

This is what we will do....

This is a picture of what we will need


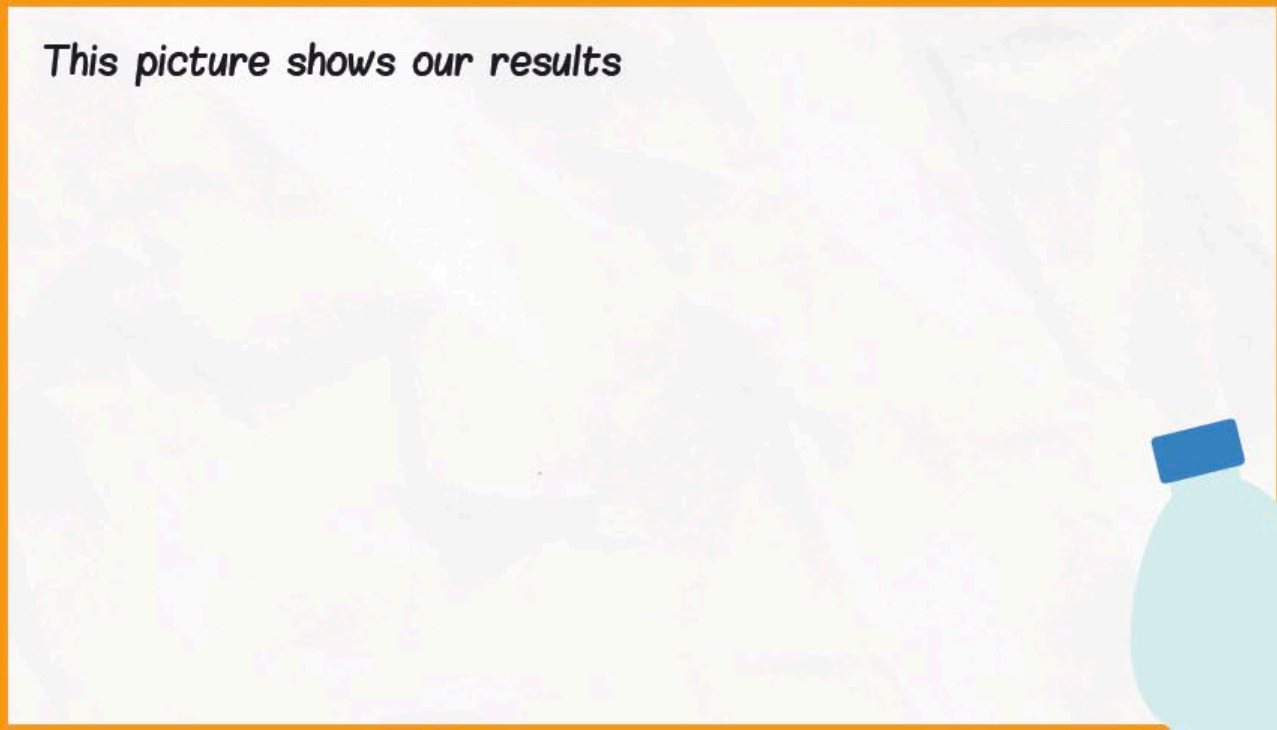




We will make it a fair test by...

What I think will happen...

This picture shows our results



We found out that...
