

Tackle the source of litter



Your team name:

> Your mission:

Help save our seas by reducing litter in your area.

What to do

1. You're going to work as a team to think of ways to stop litter in your area.
2. Follow the steps set out in this workbook. They will guide you through the tasks you need to carry out for your mission.
3. Be creative! Think of as many ideas as possible and don't be afraid of trying new things.
4. Be a positive team member – listen to others, be supportive and keep an open mind.
5. Have fun!

1 How can we stop litter at source?

Think back to the litter pick and the types of litter you found. How could you stop this litter entering the environment?

For example, if you found a lot of cigarette butts, could you petition for cigarette butt bins? If you found a lot of plastic water bottles, could you persuade people to refuse plastic bottles? What can you do to stop people dropping litter? What could you do if bins are overflowing?

Use this table to write down the litter items and your ideas for stopping it reaching the environment.

Type of litter	Ideas for ways we could stop the litter entering the environment

2 What litter are you going to target?

We're going to target:

3 What action are you going to take?

We're going to tackle this litter at source by:

4 What tactics will you use?

Decide *how* you are going to tackle this litter at source.

Tactics

- Identify litter hotspots and ask for more bins
- Make anti-litter posters
- Ban an item in school e.g. plastic water bottles
- Hold assemblies about litter
- Write to the council asking for more bins or lids on bins
- Write to the council asking for more bin collections
- Create a social media campaign about litter
- Talk to local takeaways about litter

5 Are there any adults you need help from?

6 Recap why litter is bad for the ocean

Think about everything you've learnt about the impact of litter on the ocean and write down 3 reasons why litter is harmful.

Remember these reasons when you are talking to people about why litter is a problem.

Litter is harmful because...

1.

2.

3.

Now write down 2 amazing facts about the ocean to help people understand why we should protect it.

We should protect the ocean because...

1.

2.

7 Who is going to do what?

Make a plan listing the tasks you're going to carry out and what each person is going to do.

Make sure everyone is given a chance to say what they would like to do.

Task	Name of team member

8 Put your plans into action!

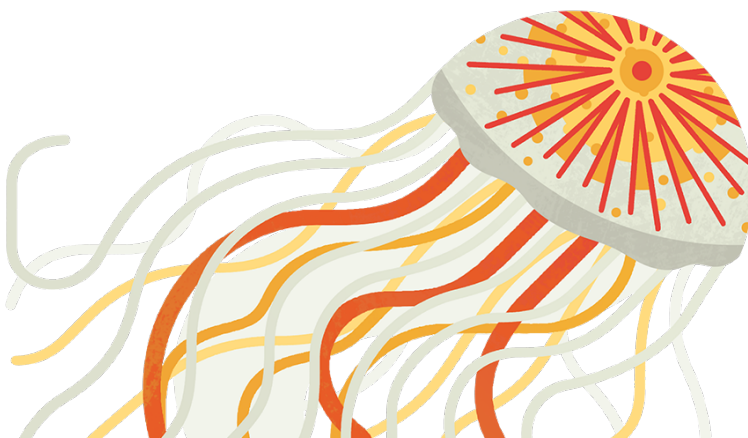
Checklist

We have:

- Chosen the type of litter we are going to tackle at source.
- Decided on the tactic we will use to tackle this problem.
- Identified the adults who can help us.
- Written 3 reasons why litter is harmful and should be stopped at source.
- Written 2 amazing facts that prove that everyone should try to protect the ocean.
- Agreed what we will do to tackle this litter at source.
- Decided what everyone is going to do.

You're ready - it's time to put your plans into action and tackle litter at source!

**Have fun and enjoy your special mission.
Every piece of litter you remove from the
environment will help clean up our seas!**



Plastic and the ocean



Why is single-use plastic a problem?

Plastic is incredibly useful – flexible, lightweight, durable and hygienic – but it lasts forever.

It doesn't biodegrade, but breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces. Too much plastic has short-term uses but long-term impacts on the planet. Did you know that 80% of the litter in the ocean is plastic?

How does plastic reach the ocean from the land?

- Littered – When people drop litter it can be washed or blown into drains and rivers and from there, travel to the sea.
- Left on beaches – Rubbish that is left on a beach can be washed directly into the sea and items placed into an overflowing bin can be blown into the sea.
- Blown from refuse trucks or off landfill sites – Plastic put in the bin ends up in landfill. Because it's light it can be blown into drains and rivers and into the sea.

What about recycling?

The government's statistics on waste in 2020 showed that only 47% of household plastic packaging was recycled.

Not everyone recycles (only about half of UK households), not all plastics can be recycled, and even plastic put into recycling bins may not be recycled due to problems experienced in the recycling process.

Solutions

No matter where you live, the plastic you throw away could end up in the sea.

Reducing plastic use is the only way to prevent it from ending up in our ocean.