

This activity contributes to the following badges:



Beaver Global Issues Activity Badge



Cub Environmental Conservation Activity Badge



Scout Environmental Conservation Activity Badge

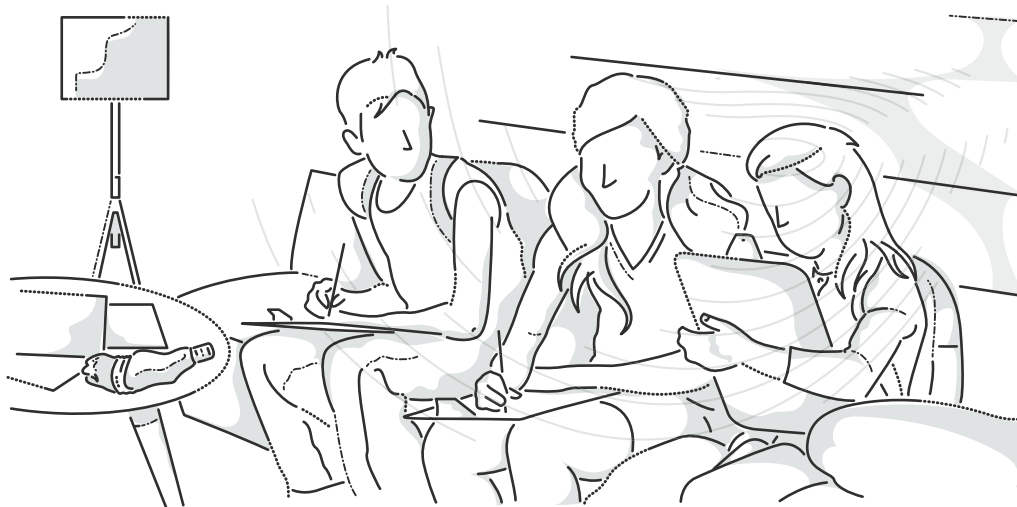


Explorer Global Issues Activity Badge

Beavers | Cubs | Scouts | Explorers

Take stock of plastic

World Oceans Day, 8 June Challenge your young people to keep a 24-hour plastic diary to see how much they use in everyday life



Time: 30 minutes
(over two sessions)

Equipment

- Plastic diary template (see page 9–10 of the Beaver/Cub activity pack: amillionhands.org.uk/resources)

Instructions

1 Discuss with your young people that World Oceans Day is when people around the world celebrate our oceans and draw attention to protecting them and the marine life that lives there. Younger sections could begin by thinking about what creatures live in the ocean.

2 Everyone is going to keep a 24-hour plastic diary, to audit how much plastic you use. Ask the young people to think about all the items they use in their day-to-day lives that have plastics in, such as plastic lunchboxes, food wrappers,

toys or water bottles. Some everyday items you wouldn't think have plastic in actually do, such as some teabags, clothing, and metal drink cans.

3 In groups, ask the young people to look around the room and see if they can identify different plastics. Come back together as a group and encourage them to share their findings. Were they surprised by how many plastic items they could find?

4 Give each person a copy of the plastics diary template to take home. Before the next meeting, they should record all of the plastics they use in one day. Challenge them to think about what they do with any plastic they throw away. Do they recycle it? They could also think about hidden plastics, like those found in clothes.

5 At your next session, ask the young people to look at their plastic diaries and discuss what they found with the rest of the group. Were they surprised by how much plastic they use in their everyday lives? Was there anything that they didn't know was made of plastic? Are there ways they could reuse, reduce or replace the plastics they use? Get ideas for reducing plastic waste on page 52.

More information:

This activity links to Global Goals #14 Life Below Water and #15 Life on Land. Go to sdgs.scout.org to find out more. Find the plastic pollution and waterways resource packs at: amillionhands.org.uk/resources.

Take it further:

The young people could set up or get involved in a community action project or plan a plastic-free camp.

Peer Leadership/
Young Leaders
could run the tasks
and present the
patrol's findings.